



# On the Beat

*Autumn in Wisconsin*

121 E. Oak ST/Sparta, WI 54656/269-3122

October 2011

## From the Chief

[www.spartapd.com](http://www.spartapd.com)

The much anticipated and somewhat controversial “Concealed Carry Law” will go into effect on November 1, 2011. The law was passed earlier this year and allows residents who obtain a license to carry a handgun concealed; something only law enforcement officers were allowed to do prior. We’ve posted a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section regarding this topic on our website: [www.spartapd.com](http://www.spartapd.com).

Choosing to “go armed” should not be taken lightly and I encourage anyone considering this to research the topic fully. Carrying a handgun is only one aspect of “going armed”. You still need a thorough understanding of the concealed carry law and the laws that govern self-defense. Knowing when you can or should use a handgun is equally, if not more important, than having the ability to carry a handgun.

*Chief Mike Kass*

## New Law - No Parking in Lawns

The City now prohibits parking a motor vehicle on an unimproved surface if the surface faces a roadway. Commonly called “yard parking”, the ordinance is intended to reduce the unsightliness of cars parked on the grass in front lawns.

## Alternate Side Parking Starts November 1st

It's almost that time of year again, winter is coming and alternate side parking starts. We wanted to remind you of the rules.

Alternate side parking is in effect every day from 2:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.

On even dates, park on the even side of the street.

On odd dates, park on the odd side of the street.

The odd or even side of the street is determined by house numbers.

Cul-de-sac parking is not allowed during this time period.

## Crosswalk Law

Crossing a busy street is one of the most stressful times when enjoying an autumn day walk. The law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and signs have been placed in intersections throughout the City as a reminder. We caution motorists to obey these crosswalks and pedestrians to use caution. **Besides, it's the polite thing to do.**



## 1st Annual County-Wide Law Enforcement Picnic

Our 1st Monroe County-Wide Law Enforcement Picnic was held August 21st and was a great success. A special thanks for their support goes to Culver's, Mathew's Bows, and Sparta Market and Pharmacy. Community leaders also lent a hand; Connie Anderson, Adam Hayden, Ed Lukasek, Craig Buswell, Kevin Riley, Edie Habegger.

## Halloween Safety



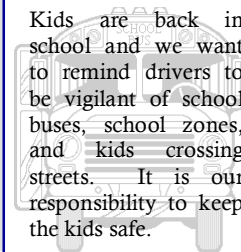
Halloween is a favorite time for children, but it is up to parents and adults to make it safe. Trick or Treat is on **Monday, October 31st from 5:00—7:00 p.m.** Here are some basic tips for keeping our kids safe:

- Always have an adult accompany the younger kids
- Stick to the set hours of Trick or Treating
- Plan a route so someone else knows where you're going
- Stay in populated areas and stay in a **group** of friends
- Don't eat candy or treats until inspected by an adult
- Don't go in a home, get in a car, or walk away with a stranger
- Have a flashlight, glow stick, or reflective costume on



## School In Session

Kids are back in school and we want to remind drivers to be vigilant of school buses, school zones, and kids crossing streets. It is our responsibility to keep the kids safe.



**Department Anniversaries:**  
5 Years: Officer Jose Tovar

**Comments or Questions:**  
[mbrown@spartapd.com](mailto:mbrown@spartapd.com)



## Kickapoo Dam Challenge



Always ready to support a good cause, the Sparta Police Department had two teams support fund raising for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Education Program. Chief Mike Kass and Officer Kyle Guralski manned one team, while Admin Assistant Heather Miller and Tomah Police Officer Josh Kenworthy made up the 2nd. Competitors in this challenge canoe 7 miles, bike 14 miles and run 3 miles. Bragging rights went to Heather and Josh who beat out the Chief and Kyle in overall time. Both teams have again signed up for this charitable event, both to support it and renew their “friendly” rivalry. Lots of bantering is going on and a lot of pride-inspired training. We'll let you know who “wins”.

