

Press Release

Contact: Pam Sharp
Phone: (608) 392-0275

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
17 August 2015

CROSSING GUARDS CRISIS

Though it seems the summer just started it's almost time for school to start again. In less than a month children will be walking to school which means the Onalaska Crossing Guards will once again be assuring that everyone arrives safely.

Unfortunately this is more challenging than it sounds. Onalaska is perpetually facing a Crossing Guard shortage. This school year, according to the Onalaska Police Department, who run the Crossing Guard program, they are one guard short.

There are five school crossings in Onalaska and currently the crossing at Sandlake and Quincy doesn't have a guard assigned and as stated by the Onalaska Police Chief Jeffrey Trotnic, this is a common problem.

"It's been a struggle keeping all the School Crossings manned," said Trotnic, "last year we had several long term guards retire and we have had a difficult time getting applicants. Recently a guard unexpectedly quit and we just don't have anyone to fill the position."

~ MORE ~

The Department has tried recruiting using conventional means like posting the opening on the City website as well as working with other organizations.

"The Onalaska American Legion has been very helpful," said Trotnic, "when I made Clarence Stellner aware of the problem he spoke at one of their meetings about the need and several people stepped forward but we still need more guards. I can't think of anything more vital than the safety of our children and this would be an ideal job for a retired person."

Guards work either one or two hours Monday through Friday during the school year and the starting pay is \$10.25 per hour.

"We just don't have the available manpower to man the crossings with Officers," said Trotnic, "we are hoping that someone will step forward and take this job."

Anyone interested can find the application at www.cityofonalaska.com under job opportunities