Washington County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Fred Newman, Sheriff

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"Take the Time to Prevent a Crime"

Captain Blake Andis

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator neighborhoodwatch@washso.org

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Statistics for May	
ASSAULT (SIMPLE)	28
BRIBERY	1
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING	27
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	11
CREDITCARD FRAUD	9
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	15
DUI	13
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	9
DRUNKENNESS	7
FALSE PRETENSES/SWINDLE/CONFIDENCE	5
IMPERSONATION	1
LARCENY (ALL OTHER)	67
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	1
RUNAWAY	3
SHOPLIFTING	21
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	95
TOTAL OFFENSES	314
TOTAL ARRESTS 158 ADULTS 20 JUVEN	ILE
TOTAL WARRANTS 1566 CIVIL 332 CRIMIN	IAL

Sheriff's Message

Summer is officially here and along with summer goes the outdoor activities we enjoy so much. Summer is also a time with a lot of activities that are alcohol related. Spending time with your friends and family in the hot outdoors often leads to alcohol being involved. We are often at picnics, boating, biking, and parties where alcoholic drinks are available. The thing we have to remember is no matter how much fun you are having alcohol can lead to dangerous behavior that normally a person would not be involved in. Often people have "a few" and then get in a boat or automobile and drive. People have "a few" and then want to fight because alcohol often causes us to lose our inhibitions and we act irrationally. Key thing is, if you are going to drink, drink moderately, and ALWAYS have a designated driver, or plan on sleeping where ever you happen to be. Summer is a time of fun; don't ruin it by over indulging. Have a safe summer and remember... DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. If you have any questions or concerns contact our office. Thank you Sheriff Newman

	JUL	1,2011
	MONTHLY MEETINGS	
10-03	BURSONS CORNER	
	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Dept.	7PM
09-06	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM
07-14	GATE CITY HIGHWAY	7PM
	Three Springs Methodist	
	6610 Reedy Creek Road	
07-19	HIGHLANDER PARK	
	Noonkester Field	7PM
07-21	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM
07-26	HAYTERS GAP	10:30AM
	Hayter's Gap Community Center	
07-28	KONNAROCK	7PM
	Konnarock Community Center	
	QUARTERLY MEETINGS	
09-05	MENDOTA/Mendota Community Cente	er 7PM
12-05	Clayman VALLEY	7PM
	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	
09-06	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM
09-09	QUAIL RIDGE/Ely Residence	7PM
09-13	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING	7PM
	110 Town Square, Glade Spring	
09-14	HAYTERS GAP EVENING GROUP	7PM
	Clinch Mountain Fire Dept.	
09-16	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S	7PM
	VALLEY/ Zion Church	
09-20	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES/	7PM
	Pleasant View Methodist Church	
09-21	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS	
	Noonkester Field Park	
09-26	GREEN SPRINGS/CLEVELAND/	7PM
	HARBOR LIGHT COMMUNITY	
	Cleveland Community Center	
09- 10	WORTHINGTON WAY	5PM
	Worthington Way Road	

ALCOHOL AND DRIVING

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ALCOHOL AND DRIVING

Although most people don't realize it, alcohol is a drug. In fact, alcohol is the most commonly found drug in fatally injured motorists. Alcohol-related collisions are still a major issue. Not only is a drunk driver endangering their own life, but they are putting all the other drivers on the highway in jeopardy. It is important to never mix drinking with driving. Alcohol is derived from the fermentation of fruit, alcohol, and other plants. It is classified as a depressant, a drug that slows down the central nervous system. The effects of alcohol vary from person to person, but everyone is affected to some degree. As a motorist you cannot afford to have your driving skills dulled by alcohol. Some common impairment include: slowed reflexes, lost inhibitions, slurred speech, clumsiness or loss of balance, blurred vision, a decrease in muscle coordination, and distorted depth perception. Drinking alcohol is not something to take lightly. Few issues are more loaded or emotionally charged than drinking and driving especially when alcohol related motor vehicle crashes cause countless numbers of injuries, emotional trauma, jail time and even death. A study by two economics professors, Stephen Levitt of the University of Chicago and Jack Porter of Harvard University, reported that "drunk drivers are at least 13 times more likely to cause a fatal car crash than sober drivers." That may not come as much of a surprise, but this might: Drivers who had been drinking (but were not legally drunk) were seven times likely than sober drivers to cause a fatal accident. There's no denying the widespread misconception that driving after you've had "just a couple" is fine. Researchers have increasing proof that this isn't the case, not by a long shot. Even if one's blood alcohol level isn't at or above the legal limit, the fact remains that drinking and driving is a selfish dangerous gamble. Alcohol is a psychoactive substance, albeit a socially acceptable one. As a society, we drink for many reasons: to celebrate, to relax and to comfort ourselves during difficult times. It's no surprise that we often refer to alcohol as a social lubricant alcohol lowers inhibitions, often causing talkativeness and a general feeling of well-being that's both physical and emotional. Because drinking is pleasurable and acceptable, it's easy to forget that it impairs judgment. It's even harder to bring this to mind after we've had a few and it's time to drive home. Studies revealed that between the hours of 12am to 3a.m., an average of 25% of drivers on the road have been drinking. These numbers don't lie. Plenty of people think it is fine to close the bar down and drive home. During these hours, approximately 60% of fatal car crashes are caused by drunk drivers. Another frightening statistic from that same study reports that "alcohol is a factor in 30% of fatal crashes, which cause 40,000 deaths each year and are the leading cause of death for Americans aged 6-27. Please don't drink and drive it is dangerous and it's against the law. Innocent people die every year because someone makes the wrong decision to get behind the wheel of a car and drive after drinking. Here are some facts about alcohol and driving.

According to the law in all 50 U.S. states, a driver is considered to be legally drunk when his or her blood alcohol content (BAC) level is at or above .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) To reach a BAC level of .08 g/dL, A man weighing approximately 170 pounds would need to consume four standard drinks in one hour on an empty stomach. A woman weighing about 140 pounds would need to consume three drinks in one hour. It takes approximately six hours after drinking for the body to completely eliminate alcohol from its system with a BAC level of .08 g/dL. Because alcohol dilutes itself in the water volume of the body in order to travel through it, vital organs that contain a lot of water (such as the brain) are particularly vulnerable to the effects of alcohol. State laws commonly use two different acronyms to describe drunken or impaired driving-DWI and DUI. DWI stands for "driving while intoxicated" and typically refers only to alcohol impairment, while DUI stands for "driving under the influence" and can refer to either alcohol or drugs. According to one poll, over 80% of American drivers have heard of the term BAC or blood alcohol content, but only 27% of drivers can correctly identify the legal BAC limit for their state. On average, someone in the U.S. is killed by a drunk driver every 40 minutes. Beer is the most common type of alcoholic beverage involved in both DUI arrests and fatal crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA). It is also the drink of choice in most cases of binge drinking and underage drinking.

Chaplain's Corner

Oscar Wilde said, "Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative." So stop getting up at 6:05. Get up at 5:06. Walk a mile at dawn. Find a new way to drive to work. Switch chores with your spouse next Saturday. Buy a wok. Study wildflowers. Stay up alone all night. Read to the blind. Start counting browneyed blondes. Subscribe to an out-of-town paper. Canoe at midnight. Don't write to your Congressman; take a whole scout troop to see him. Learn to speak Italian. Teach some kid the thing you do best. Listen to two hours of uninterrupted Mozart. Take up aerobic dancing. Leap out of that rut. Savor life. Remember, we pass this way only once (source Unknown). We should not be identified by our addictions. The Bible clearly states that "where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom" (2 Cor. 3:17). We can be free from our addictions, free from our past, free to live out our future. Don't be held down by your own self imposed chains. Life is meant to be lived! Practice freedom.

Erik Hinchey

WCSO Chaplain