

# Washington County Sheriff's Office

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Sheriff Fred Newman  
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*"Take the time to prevent a crime"*

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### Statistics for October

Aggravated Assault	1
Assault (Simple)	11
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	10
Credit Card Fraud	7
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	21
Driving Under the Influence	6
Drug/Narcotic Violations	29
Drunkenness	4
Impersonation	2
Intimidation	1
Larceny ( all other )	37
Liquor Law Violations	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Shoplifting	11
Weapon Law Violations	4
Wire Fraud	0
All Other Offenses	88
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>235</b>

Total Arrest	Total Warrants
Adult- 98	Criminal- 403
Juvenile- 8	Civil- 1,838

### SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

There is nothing worse than to return home after having a great time at a holiday event and find out your home has been broken into, and all the things you lovingly bought for your loved ones are gone.

When you are away from your residence make sure that you leave a few lights on, keep gifts in location's that someone looking in your windows will not be able to see them. Make sure the doors, windows, and garage doors are locked. In other words, if someone is going to come into your home uninvited, make sure that person has to work hard to get in. At all times, not just during the holidays, we must remain diligent to the safety and welfare of those things we love.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Sheriff Fred Newman*

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

12-03	BURSON CORNER (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday) <i>Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
12-04	HIGH POINT (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday) <i>Highpoint Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
12-06	MENDOTA (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday) <i>Mendota Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
12-11	TAYLORS VALLEY <i>Taylor's Valley Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
12-18	HIGHLANDER PARK (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) *Cancelled <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
12-20	ZION COMMUNITY (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)*Cancelled <i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
12-24	OAKWOOD DRIVE *Cancelled	7:00 PM
12-25	HAYTERS GAP (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)*Cancelled <i>Hayters Gap Community Center</i>	10:30 AM
12-25	POOR VALLEY (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)*Cancelled <i>Valley View Assembly of God Church</i>	7:00 PM
12-27	KONNAROCK (4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday) <i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	7:00 PM

### Quarterly Meeting Schedule

01-08	WOODLAND HILLS <i>Woodland Hills Christian Church</i>	7:00 PM
01-10	GATE CITY HWY <i>Three Springs Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM
12-03	CLAYMAN VALLEY <i>Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
12-04	EAGLE RIDGE <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
12-08	WORTHINGTON WAY <i>Worthington Way Road</i>	5:00 PM
12-10	CROWEVILLE/ GLADE SPRING	7:00 PM
12-11	HAYTERS GAP EVENING <i>Clinch Mountain Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
12-13	QUAIL RIDGE <i>Ely Residence</i>	7:00 PM
12-17	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES <i>Pleasant View Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM
12-18	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS <i>Noonkester Field</i>	7:00 PM
12-20	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY <i>Zion Church</i> *Cancelled	7:00 PM

### Monthly Topic

**Home Intruder Prevention**

## Sheriff Newman shares his tips on how to deter intruders from invading your home.

It is hard to think of anything more chilling than an intruder attempting to break into your residence, or even worse succeeding. When thinking about how to keep your home safe from burglars, keep in mind that the statistics show that 40 percent of annual household burglaries in the United States were not forced entries, meaning someone was able to walk, climb or crawl inside the house almost as easily as if the door was left unsecured. To help deter unwanted intruders and keep them out of your home, you don't have to turn your property into a suburban Fort Knox. The following tips will help you protect your family and your property if used consistently.

- **Don't Showboat-** Do not leave anything lying around outside that could lure thieves onto your property. After making purchases such as expensive electronics, do not throw empty packaging outside, or in recycling bins. That tells people you have something brand spanking new that could fetch decent dollars on the street. It may also leave them wondering what other goodies are inside your home.
- **Batten down the hatches.** Invest in good deadbolt locks for your exterior doors, and make sure your windows have locks as well. You should take extra precaution to secure them since they can be an inviting entry for burglars. Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.
- **Brace up sliding doors.** If your home has sliding-glass doors, place a strong bar along the track when the doors are closed and locked. A sturdy broom handle or baseball bat can work nicely.
- **Don't leave a spare key out.** It may seem like a good idea to leave a key hidden under a flower pot or doormat in case you lock yourself out of the house. This could lead to an open invitation for an intruder to walk inside without any trouble. If you must leave a spare key outside, place it in a combination lock box and hide it somewhere outside.

- **Let there be light.** Create the illusion that you are home by leaving lights, TV's, radios on when you're away. Install motion-detection lights outside, and keep a few key interior lights on timers so it always looks like someone is home – and possibly awake.
- **Plan ahead for vacations.** Remember to have someone bring your newspapers and mail in each day and also mow your lawn while you're gone. Consider keeping a radio tuned to a talk radio station so it sounds like people are conversing somewhere inside the house. Never leave messages on your answering machine saying that you are out of town. Stop announcing your vacations on Facebook, MySpace etc. It's very easy to locate your address and other personal information, and this leaves your residence leaves your home vulnerable in the interim.
- **Prune back those bushes and trees.** It's hard to hide in neat, trimmed shrubs. Keep your greenery under control so neighbors and patrolling deputies can see whether or not anyone is skulking about your property. Also check to see that your trees can't provide access to second-floor bedrooms.

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,000 that carried over no balance from day to day...Allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and every evening cancelled whatever part of the amount you failed to use during the day, what would you do? Draw out every cent every day, of course, and use it to your advantage! Well, you have such a bank, and its name is TIME! Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever of this you failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balances, it allows no overdrafts. Each day it opens a new account with you. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow. [Source Unknown.](#)*

We are reaching the time of year when we evaluate our time, or lack of it. We have to decide how we will spend it, invest it, save it, or burn it. My challenge to myself and to all that I may influence is to use it wisely, and make the most of it. Savor every minute, because the next one is not guaranteed. As you think about the last year's minutes, and ponder the coming years, prioritize and plan living into each one. Enjoy every minute, enjoy the Holidays, and make memories for next December. Did you "Live out loud" this year and will you next?

Merry Christmas,  
Erik Hinchey  
WCSO Chaplain