

# Washington County Sheriff's Office

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



**Fred Newman, Sheriff**

276-676-6000

276-669-7134

**Captain Blake Andis**

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
neighborhoodwatch@washso.org

Toll Free 1-888-461-0414

*"Take the Time to Prevent a Crime"*

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### Statistics for June

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1
ARSON	1
ASSAULT (SIMPLE)	24
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING	21
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	1
CREDIT CARD FRAUD	1
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	23
DUI	4
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	5
DRUNKENNESS	5
FALSE PRETENSE	2
INTIMIDATION	2
LARCENY (ALL OTHER)	62
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	3
RUNAWAY	1
SHOPLIFTING	15
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	96
<b>TOTAL OFFENSES</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>142 ADULTS    8 JUVENILE</b>
<b>TOTAL WARRANTS</b>	<b>2262 CIVIL    378 CRIMINAL</b>

### SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

This month's Neighborhood Watch newsletter topic relates to prescription drug abuse and doctor shopping.

The abuse of prescribed medicines often begins with legitimate use. The risk of becoming addicted to prescription drugs increases when the drugs are used in ways other than for those prescribed.

The abusers are able to obtain prescription drugs by using several doctors, then getting the prescription filled at different pharmacies. Most people are not aware of this very serious problem.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office. *Sheriff Fred Newman*

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

08-03	BURSONS CORNER	7PM
	Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Department	
08-25	HAYTERS GAP	10:30AM
	Hayter's Gap Community Center	
08-04	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM
08-18	HIGHLANDER PARK	7PM
	Noonkester Field Park	
08-27	KONNAROCK	7PM
	Konnarock Community Center	
08-17	MELVIN HILLS	7PM
	Pleasant View Methodist Church	
08-20	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM

### Quarterly Meeting Schedule

09-07	CLAYMAN VALLEY	7PM
	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	
09-14	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING	7PM
	110 Town Square, Glade Spring	
09-15	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS	7PM
	Noonkester Field Park	
09-01	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM
09-08	GREENFIELD MOBILE PARK	7PM
	Greenfield Trailer Park	
09-28	GREEN SPRINGS/CLEVELAND/ HARBOR LIGHT COMMUNITY	7PM
	Cleveland Community Center	
09-03	MENDOTA/Mendota Community Center	7PM
09-10	QUAIL RIDGE/Ely Residence	7PM
09-17	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY/ Zion Church	7PM
09-21	WYNDALE COMMUNITY	7PM
	Pleasant View Methodist Church	
09-12	WORTHINGTON WAY	5PM
	Worthington Way Road	

**Reminder:** If schools have been closed due to weather, contact your coordinator for last minute changes on your meeting.

### Meeting Topic

**Prescription Drug Abuse & Doctor Shopping**

## Doctor Shopping – Chronic Pain Medication Abuse

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "doctor shopping" is one of the primary ways that addicts obtain prescription drugs for non-medical use. "Doctor shopping" refers to when an individual visits several different doctors to obtain prescriptions for the same medications, and then has the prescriptions filled at different pharmacies. This allows the individual to obtain more of the prescribed substance than any one physician or pharmacist would allow. Legally, doctor shopping is not a minor matter; it is prosecuted as a felony and is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Abuse of prescribed medicines often begins with legitimate use. Because of this, individuals who otherwise would not abuse substances find themselves addicted when it is already too late. They begin doctor shopping to feed their addiction, but rationalize this behavior as being necessary to manage the pain and maintain the façade of being in control. Pain medication, prescribed for a variety of common reasons, including back pain or surgery, caesarian sections, or even dental procedures, carries the highest risk for dependence.

In 2006, one of the most famous doctor shopping and prescription drug abuse stories became known. Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh turned himself in to Palm Beach authorities for doctor shopping. From 1998 to 2006, Limbaugh obtained massive amounts of the painkiller OxyContin, both through multiple prescriptions from different health care providers and through illegal channels. Limbaugh began taking painkillers in the late 1990s after an unsuccessful back surgery. By the time he turned himself in to police, he was rumored to be taking up to 30 pills per day. His drug abuse was severe enough to damage his hearing.

According to a 2004 statement from the White House's Drug Czar John Walter, "The non-medical use of prescription drugs has become an increasingly widespread and serious problem in this country; one that calls for immediate action. The Federal government is embarking on a comprehensive effort to ensure that potentially addictive medications are dispensed and used safely and effectively."

### Preventing and recognizing prescription drug abuse

Because about 70 percent of Americans (approximately 191 million people) visit their primary care physician at least once every 2 years, these doctors are in a unique position—not only to prescribe medications, but also to identify prescription drug abuse when it exists, help the patient recognize the problem, set recovery goals, and seek appropriate treatment. Screening for prescription drug abuse can be incorporated into routine medical visits by asking about substance abuse history, current

prescription and OTC use, and reasons for use. Doctors should take note of rapid increases in the amount of medication needed, or frequent, unscheduled refill requests. Doctors also should be alert to the fact that those addicted to prescription drugs may engage in "doctor shopping"—moving from provider to provider in an effort to obtain multiple prescriptions for the drug(s) they abuse.

By providing clear information on how to take a medication appropriately and describing possible side effects or drug interactions, pharmacists can play a key role in preventing prescription drug abuse. Moreover, by monitoring prescriptions for falsification or alterations and being aware of potential "doctor shopping," pharmacists can be the first line of defense in recognizing prescription drug abuse. Some pharmacies have developed hotlines to alert other pharmacies in the region when a fraudulent prescription is detected.

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## Chaplains Corner

It was once said from a church service I attended, in life you are either entering a storm, in the middle of a storm or on your way out of a storm. We are always surrounded by struggle, and by difficulty. These certainties in life often bring with it, worry and anxiety.

Can you imagine the captain of a ship, driven about by rough winds and desiring to drop anchor, trying to find a suitable place on board his own vessel? Such a thing seems ridiculous. He hangs the anchor at the prow, but still the boat drives before the wind; he casts it upon the deck but this too fails to hold it steady; at last, he puts it down into the hold but has no better success. You see, an anchor resting on the storm-driven craft itself will never do the job. Only when it is thrown into the deep can it be effective against wind and tide. In the very same way, that person whose confidence is in himself, will never experience true peace and safety. His actions are as futile as one who seeks to keep the anchor aboard his own ship. "So cast your faith into the great depths of God's eternal love and power." (Author Unknown).

The prayer that was lifted up to God in Psalm 67:1 should be one that we too should lift up, no matter where we might be in life's storms.  
"God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us—"

Seeking Still <><

Erik Hinchey

WCSO Chaplain