

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

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Statistics for October

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1
ARSON	1
ASSAULT (SIMPLE)	25
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING	10
CREDIT CARD FRAUD	2
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	18
DUI	10
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	19
DRUNKENNESS	11
FALSE PRETENSE	10
INTIMIDATION	1
KIDNAPPING	1
LARCENY (ALL OTHER)	58
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	2
SHOPLIFTING	21
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	84
TOTAL OFFENSES	275

TOTAL ARRESTS	143	ADULTS	17	JUVENILE
TOTAL WARRANTS	1890	CIVIL	339	CRIMINAL

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

As this year comes to a close and we reflect on how the past year has played out I am hoping that each of you have had a pleasant year. I hope that through the Neighborhood Watch program that each of you has learned something. We have tried to vary our program topics and make things more interesting for each of you and hopefully we have succeeded in doing this. This month's topic is about general safety at Christmas time. This is a time of year when thieves are out in full force. Use caution when doing your shopping during this season, be extra alert to your surroundings and make sure you keep your purse or wallet in a safe location. Also, use caution in your home. Make sure your decorations are in good working order, and never use real candles around Christmas trees. I wish you each a Merry Christmas and look forward to serving you in the coming New Year. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. Sheriff Fred Newman

Monthly Meeting Schedule

12-07	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM
12-06	BURSONS CORNER Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Department	7PM
12-21	HIGHLANDER PARK Noonkester Field Park	7PM
12-16	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM
12-15	MELVIN HILLS Pleasant View Methodist Church	7PM
12-28	HAYTERS GAP Hayter's Gap Community Center	10:30AM
12-25	KONNAROCK Konnarock Community Center	7PM

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

12-07	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM
12-02	MENDOTA/Mendota Community Center	7PM
12-06	CLAYMAN VALLEY Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	7PM
12-14	HAYTERS GAP EVENING GROUP Clinch Mountain Fire Dept.	7PM
12-09	QUAIL RIDGE/Ely Residence	7PM
12-09	WORTHINGTON WAY Worthington Way Road	7PM
12-13	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING 110 Town Square, Glade Spring	7PM
12-21	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS Noonkester Field Park	7PM
12-23	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY/ Zion Church	7PM
12-20	WYNDALE COMMUNITY Pleasant View Methodist Church	7PM
12-27	GREEN SPRINGS/CLEVELAND/ HARBOR LIGHT COMMUNITY Cleveland Community Center	7PM

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

CHRISTMAS SAFETY

Christmas Safety

The holidays should be a magical time for children. Yet each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 8700 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. Keep the season merry with this list of safety tips

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.

Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Use only noncombustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use nonflammable holders and place candles out of children's reach.

Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial-snow sprays.

Inside or outside, always use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory that indicates conformance with safety standards.

Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and cause a fire. When decorating for the holidays use good judgment and common sense. Most of all be safe and the holidays will be so much better.

To help prevent you from becoming a victim at Christmas here are some tips to make sure your Christmas isn't spoiled: Try to avoid doing most of your shopping in one trip as you struggle to carry all your bags you will be distracted, making it easier for a thief to steal from you. Keep your handbag closed and hold all bags securely to make it more difficult for the pickpockets. Try not to keep too much cash and keep your checkbook and credit card separate. Try not to go back to your car in the middle of the shopping trip to put gifts in the car. Thieves may be watching cars for this opportunity. Always ensure that Christmas gifts are out of sight. Check that all windows and doors are shut and locked. Don't leave bags over the back of your chair where it's easy for thieves to run off with them. Try to avoid putting Christmas gifts under the tree until Christmas Even. If you go out in the evening make sure that some lights are left on to make it look like someone is home. Genuine delivery personnel will have uniforms and prominent vehicles and should not come into your home. If you're not going to be home make arrangements for your packages when they are delivered. Never leave them outside on the porch unattended this makes it easy for thieves to steal them.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Psalm 90:12 says, "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Live your life carefully and prayerfully. We must understand that we will live as long as God wants us to live. Not less or more. We don't determine our date of birth, and we don't determine the date of our death. We do, however, have a lot to say about that time in the middle. Some of the best advice I have ever received came from a youth pastor friend of mine while riding mountain bikes on a cold January day. The opportunity came to take a "polar bear plunge" into a nearby creek, I expressed my reluctance, and his response was, "don't miss an opportunity and look back and say "I wish I would have". Basically, "don't live so that one day you look back with regret!", The ride back off the mountain was a cold one, but I can look back and say the challenge was issued, and I met it, and found victory over my anxiety.

I am not saying that we need to live taking careless risks, but rather to live each moment to its fullest. Saint Irenaeus stated this thought this way, "The Glory of God is man fully alive". Soak in the time with your children, sip an extra cup of coffee with your parents, spend some time in the mountains taking in God's beauty. Don't pass up an opportunity to share a smile, a word of encouragement, or your faith.

Seeking Him<><
Erik Hinchey
WCSO Chaplain