

# 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 December

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1
ARSON	1
ASSAULT (SIMPLE)	15
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING	14
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	3
CREDIT CARD FRAUD	4
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	15
DUI	3
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	12
DRUNKENNESS	5
FALSE PRETENSE	3
LARCENY (ALL OTHER)	38
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1
RUNAWAY	1
SHOPLIFTING	22
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	3
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	77
TOTAL OFFENSES	218
TOTAL ARRESTS	118 ADULTS 7 JUVENILE
TOTAL WARRANTS	1425 CIVIL 351 CRIMINAL

### Sheriff's Message

This month's newsletter will be covering the topic of Work Zones on Virginia Roads.

In Washington County there is almost always road construction going on, whether it is on interstate, main or secondary roads, and there is always concern for safety in these areas.

According to the VDOT website, there were more than 2,000 crashes in work zones on state maintained roads during 2008. Of those crashes seven people died and more than 1,000 were injured. The majority of those crashes involved drivers in their early 20's. On average, four out of five people killed in work zone crashes are drivers, not highway workers.

The speed limit is decreased for the safety of not only those working on the road but for the safety of those operating a vehicle on the road. If you know there is road work, leave home early so you don't have to speed to get to work or school on time. Always expect delays. Work zones should be "NO Phone Zones". Never text while driving, it is the law.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office. Thank you, Sheriff Newman

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

02-01	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM
02-01	BURSONS CORNER Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Department	7PM
02-15	HIGHLANDER PARK Noonkester Field Park	7PM
02-17	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM
02-21	MELVIN HILLS Pleasant View Methodist Church	7PM
02-28	HAYTERS GAP Hayter's Gap Community Center	10:30AM
02-24	KONNAROCK Konnarock Community Center	7PM

### Quarterly Meeting Schedule

	CELEBRITY LANE/ 18045 Celebrity Lane	7PM
	GATE CITY HIGHWAY/Valley Institute	7PM
03-01	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM
03/03	MENDOTA/Mendota Community Center	7PM
03-07	CLAYMAN VALLEY Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	7PM
03-08	HAYTERS GAP EVENING GROUP Clinch Mountain Fire Dept.	7PM
03-10	QUAIL RIDGE/Ely Residence	7PM
03-10	WORTHINGTON WAY Worthington Way Road	7PM
03-14	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING 110 Town Square, Glade Spring	7PM
03-15	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS Noonkester Field Park	7PM
03-17	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY/ Zion Church	7PM
03-21	WYNDALE COMMUNITY Pleasant View Methodist Church	7PM
03-28	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.

### ROAD WORK ZONES

## ROAD WORK ZONES

If you've been behind the wheel recently, there's a good chance you've driven through a construction zone. As you sit in the comfort of your own vehicle, America's road workers are out there, pounding the pavement -- literally -- to improve our roads and freeways. State governments have always recognized the important role that road workers play in keeping our roads safe and more convenient to use. Drivers are conditioned to respond to colors. Red brake lights, traffic lights and octagons tell drivers to stop. Yellow flashing lights and road signs caution drivers of conditions ahead. And everyone knows what green means. However, many drivers need to be reminded of the fourth, and possibly the most important, color they'll encounter on the road: construction orange. Spring and summer months promise construction zones along America's highways, byways, side streets and main drags. In the Winter months construction goes on also.

While beneficial in the long run, roadway construction can be inconvenient and quite dangerous unless drivers remember a few basic guidelines. Below are some tips to help ensure safe driving no matter how much orange you see: Follow the Signs-Signs posted in work zones provide important information designed to protect motorists and construction crews. Construction signs indicate everything from traffic lane changes to speed limit reductions. Remember, a construction zone speed limit applies regardless of the presence of workers. Be Alert-Not everyone is well versed in construction zone driving etiquette, so pay extra attention to your surroundings while in these areas. Continuously scan the roadway for rubberneck drivers, moving equipment, vehicles and workers. For increased concentration, avoid distractions such as eating and talking on a cell phone. Plan Ahead-When making travel plans, take time to research where construction zones will be and use an alternate route if possible. Construction zones can cause delays, so give yourself extra time if you know you have to drive through a work zone. Maintain adequate fuel to ensure you don't run out of gas, and bring drinks and snacks to keep you and your passengers satisfied as well. Remain calm-never allow speeding and impatient drivers to modify the way you drive. Keeping cool in heavy slowdowns will make your drive safer and help keep traffic flowing. Be aware of tailgaters and motorists creating their own lane on the shoulder, but calmly focus on your driving, always leaving yourself enough space between you and the vehicles around you. Give trucks room-because of the length and weight of trucks, they need more room to stop or change lanes, especially in the narrow lanes construction zones often render. If a truck has its turn signal on, assist the driver by moving over or slowing down. While you should increase following distance for all vehicles when driving through a construction zone, remember trucks need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. The color orange on the road means construction zones-enter these zones using extra concentration, caution and common sense.

Today, many state governments have enacted laws to help keep road workers safe. These laws include the doubling of fines for speeders and even jail time if you are caught going too fast. Pay attention to what's out on the road and adhere to our tips. Doing so could mean the difference between passing safely through a construction zone and making a pit stop at the courthouse in front of the Judge to explain why you were speeding in a construction zone. Always be alert when driving in construction zones and remember safety first. The workers want to get home to their families just like we do.

## 2010 Employee of the Year DONNA SUTHERLAND



**Records Manager Donna Sutherland has been recognized as the 2010 Employee of the Year for the Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Sutherland began her career with the Sheriff's Office in 1996 as a police dispatcher. In 2002, she transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division as the Criminal Records Manager, where she is currently assigned.**

**"Donna Sutherland is a very loyal, dedicated employee who has an excellent work ethic," stated Sheriff Newman. "She is a definite asset to our Sheriff's Office."**

**Donna was selected for this honor at the Annual Sheriff's Office Christmas Dinner held Friday night, December 10, 2010, at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center.**