

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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"Take the time to prevent a crime"

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Statistics for February

Aggravated Assault	5
Assault (Simple)	4
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	16
Credit Card Fraud	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	13
Driving Under the Influence	1
Drug/Narcotic Violations	30
Drunkenness	8
Weapon Law Violations	5
Embezzlement	1
Grand/Petit Larceny	21
Intimidation	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Shoplifting	12
Pornography/Obscene Material	1
All Other Offenses	84
Total Offenses	207

Total Arrest	Total Warrants
Adult- 57	Criminal- 243
Juvenile- 0	Civil- 1653

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Distracted driving is dangerous any time of year, but with nicer weather in the Spring and Summer, the risk of an accident increases. Please be mindful of more pedestrians, bikes, motorcycles, trailers, boats and road construction. When planning your activities, allow extra time for travel and always wear your seatbelt.

As always, if you have a question or concern, please contact our office.

Sheriff Fred Newman

Monthly Meeting Schedule

2 nd Mon	WASHINGTON CHAPEL <i>Washington Chapel United Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM
3 rd Tue	HIGHLANDER PARK/Exit 10 <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
4 th Tue	HAYTERS GAP <i>Hayters Gap Community Center</i>	10:30 AM
4 th Thur	KONNAROCK <i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	7:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

4-12	WOODLAND HILLS <i>Woodland Hills Christian Church</i>	7:00 PM
4-14	GATE CITY HWY <i>Three Springs Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM
6-02	MENDOTA <i>Mendota Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
6-06	BURSON CORNER <i>Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
6-07	HIGH POINT ***Cancelled until September <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
6-09	TAYLORS VALLEY <i>Taylor's Valley Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
6-09	QUAIL RIDGE <i>Ely Residence</i>	7:00 PM
6-13	CROWVILLE/ GLADE <i>Glade Spring Senior Center</i>	7:00 PM
6-14	HOLSTON GREENDALE <i>Greendale Elementary</i>	7:00 PM
6-16	ZION COMMUNITY <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
6-16	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
6-20	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES <i>Pleasant View Methodist</i>	7:00 PM
6-21	EVERGREEN/LOWRY HILLS <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
6-27	OAKWOOD DRIVE <i>McDaniel Residence.</i>	7:00 PM
6-28	POOR VALLEY/HAYTERS GAP <i>Valley View Assembly of God Church</i>	7:00 PM

***If school is closed due to inclement weather, or if Washington County Government offices are closed for a Holiday, there will be no neighborhood watch meeting.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways.

Distracted driving is **any activity** that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger the driver, passenger, and bystander's safety. These types of distractions include:

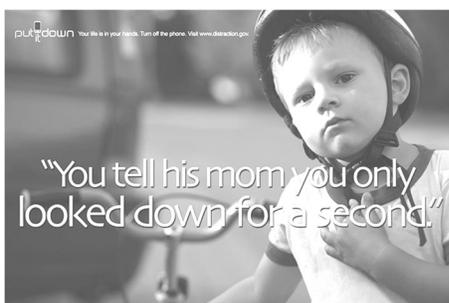
- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

But, because text messaging requires **visual, manual, and cognitive** attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

The percentage of driver's text-messaging or visibly manipulating handheld devices increased from 1.7 percent in 2013 to 2.2 percent in 2014. Since 2007, young drivers (age 16 to 24) have been observed manipulating electronic devices at higher rates than older drivers. ([NHTSA](#))

There are several things you can do to keep yourself and others safe on the road:

- Model safe behavior behind the wheel—never text and drive and **always wear your seatbelt**
- Always stay focused and alert when driving
- Take the pledge—commit to distraction-free driving
- Speak out if the driver in your car is distracted
- Encourage your friends and family to designate their cars a "no phone" zone when driving
- Spread the word—get involved in promoting safe driving in your community



In 2014 3,179 people were killed, and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Adult seat belt use is the **most effective** way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes. Yet millions of adults do not wear their seat belts on every trip. We know that when adults wear seat belts, kids wear seat belts. So **be a good example** and **buckle up for every ride**. Be sure everyone in the vehicle buckles up, too.

- Use a seat belt on **every** trip, no matter how short.
- Make sure children are properly buckled up in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt, whichever is appropriate for their age, height, and weight.
- Have all children age 12 and under sit properly buckled in the back seat.
- Remember to never place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an air bag.
- Properly buckle children in the middle back seat when possible because it is the safest spot in the vehicle.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A weakness of all human beings, " Henry Ford said, "is trying to do too many things at once. That scatters effort and destroys direction. It makes for haste, and haste makes waste. So we do things all the wrong ways possible before we come to the right one. Then we think it is the best way because it works, and it was the only way left that we could see. Every now and then I wake up in the morning headed toward that finality, with a dozen things I want to do. I know I can't do them all at once." When asked what he did about that, Ford replied, "I go out and trot around the house. While I'm running off the excess energy that wants to do too much, my mind clears and I see what can be done and should be done first." *Bits & Pieces, September 19, 1991, p. 18.*

There are so many things today that are designed to distract or entertain us. The last place we need either of these things in behind the wheel of a car. When we are driving, we often forget that we are driving a weapon of mass destruction. An accident from our inability to focus could ruin both our lives and the lives of our innocent victims.
Focus on the task at hand.

Erik Hinchey
WCSO Chaplain