Washington County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



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"Take the Time to Prevent a Crime"

Captain Blake Andis

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator neighborhoodwatch@washso.org

Volume 10, Issue 11

November 2010

Statistics for September			
AGGRAVATED ASSA	ULT	1	
ASSAULT (SIMPLE)		18	
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING			
CREDIT CARD FRAUD			
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM			
DUI		11	
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS			
DRUNKENNESS		11	
FALSE PRETENSE		5	
INTIMIDATION		3	
LARCENY (ALL OTHE	ER)	46	
LIQUOR LAW VIOLAT	ΓIONS	7	
RUNAWAY		1	
SHOPLIFTING		17	
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS			
WIRE FRAUD		1	
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		105	
TOTAL OFFENSES		285	
TOTAL ARRESTS	167 ADULTS	21 JUVENILE	
TOTAL WARRANTS	2303CIVIL	389CRIMINAL	

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

With the upcoming holidays everyone is getting ready to start buying gifts. Many gifts this year will be purchased on the internet. What I would like to do in this newsletter is to let you know some safety tips for using the internet for purchases. Know the company you are making the purchase from. Are they a reputable online company? Please protect your privacy; know exactly what information the company is collecting, how it will be used and if they share or sell your information with other companies. When paying for the purchase, use a credit card, federal law states that you are liable for \$50 when an unauthorized purchase is made. Always make sure the website you are using has an unbroken padlock or key icon, this will let you know if you are on a secure site. Make sure you keep good records in case there is fraudulent use and you need to make a report to law enforcement. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. If there are any questions or concerns please contact our department. Sheriff Fred Newman

	Monthly Meeting Schedule		
11-02	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM	
11-01	BURSONS CORNER	7PM	
	Goodson-Kinderhook Fire Department		
11-16	HIGHLANDER PARK	7PM	
	Noonkester Field Park		
11-18	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM	
11-15	MELVIN HILLS	7PM	
	Pleasant View Methodist Church		
11-23	HAYTERS GAP	10:30AM	
	Hayter's Gap Community Center		
11-25	KONNAROCK	7PM	
	Konnarock Community Center		
	Quarterly Meeting Schedule		
12-07	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM	
12-02	-	7PM	
12-06	CLAYMAN VALLEY	7PM	
10.11	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	50. (
12-14	HAYTERS GAP EVENING GROUP	7PM	
12.00	Clinch Mountain Fire Dept.	50. (
12-09	QUAIL RIDGE/Ely Residence	7PM	
12-09	WORTHINGTON WAY	7PM	
10.10	Worthington Way Road	7D) (
12-13	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING	7PM	
12.21	110 Town Square, Glade Spring	7DM	
12-21	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS	7PM	
10.02	Noonkester Field Park	7PM	
12-23		/PM	
12-20	VALLEY/ Zion Church WYNDALE COMMUNITY	7PM	
12-20	Pleasant View Methodist Church	/PIVI	
12-27	GREEN SPRINGS/CLEVELAND/	7PM	
12-2/	HARBOR LIGHT COMMUNITY	/ F IVI	
Cleveland Community Center			
Remi	Reminder: If schools are closed due to weather, contact your coordinator for		
last minute changes on your meeting.			

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Meeting Topic Internet Shopping

Volume 10, Issue 11 November 2010

INTERNET SHOPPING

With how popular online shopping has become it is no surprise that people have decided to worry about making purchases only to find out later that it was a part of an online scam or fraud. But the good news is that most online scams or frauds are not centered on the venues that allow you to make purchases. However, you still need to be on the look-out for them. In fact one of the most popular online frauds has to do with auction sites, which requires you to make a purchase. Basically what happens on this type of fraud is that you place a bid on an item: you end up winning the bid so you pay the money that you owe. The only problem is that once you have paid the money you never receive the merchandise that you have purchased. The good news is that there are things you can do to ensure that you are not dealing with an online scam or fraud when making purchases online. And PayPal, the company used on eBay, does have some security measures in place, as well as reimbursement policies for fraudulent transactions... The first thing you need to do to make purchases online is to do some basic research. What you are going to want to do is to find out about all of the popular online scams and frauds and what they look like. The thing about online scams or frauds is that many times they will resemble the more popular ones. The next thing that you are going to want to do is to make sure that you are making purchases through a secure website. Basically what you are going to want to look for is the https in the address bar when you are making your final purchases. If they are asking for personal information and the https or the closed lock symbol is not there, you do not want to enter in your personal information because this means the site is not secure and anybody can access your information after you have entered it. If you are on an auction website and are planning on making a purchase, you do face the risk of some online fraud, like what was talked about in the first paragraph of this article. But one thing that you can do is to take some steps to make sure that you are not taken advantage of. If you are bidding on an item you are going to want to check out the seller's reputation and history before you even make the bid, if they have many complaints or a bad reputation, then you want to go elsewhere to bid. Something else that you can do is to pay for the item with PayPal or a credit card that protects you from fraud. This way you will not lose your money if the person does happen to be a fake seller. But you should also report it to the auction site because they will also do everything they can to help get your money back because it is their reputation on the line as well. If you are just making regular online purchases then you are going to want to check the company out with the Better Business Bureau to make sure that they are legit; there is even a there is even a division of the Better Business Bureau that deals strictly with online companies. But if you don't check them out before you make a purchase you might find that the website is gone the day after you made the purchase.

You should also call any numbers they have to find out if they work and you should also try to communicate by email to make sure that the email address is valid. Pay by credit or charge card. If you pay by credit or charge card online, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, consumers have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor is investigating them. In the event of unauthorized use of your credit or charge card, you are generally held liable only for the first \$50 in charges. Some companies offer an online shopping guarantee that ensures you will not be held responsible for any unauthorized charges made online, and some cards may provide additional warranty, return and/or purchase protection benefits Print a copy of the page with the order information or number when you are done ordering. This way you have proof that you ordered the item, and also serves as a reminder to you of when you bought your product, and at what price .Never send credit card or personal information through email. Don't give merchants information they shouldn't need, such as your social security number or driver's license number. Be sure to check out a company's return and warranty policy before purchasing anything from them. After all, you won't want to pay for a broken item or an item you don't need. Never pay for an item via Western Union, it will be hard to trace and to get your money back. Get personal contact information about a seller at an auction, such as a telephone number or a street address, before purchasing (not just an e-mail address).

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Don't let stress get the best of you!

Words of encouragement passed on from a faithful friend. These words would benefit us all if we simply heeded their warning. We are entering into the most stressful time of year. Visiting family, financial deadlines, project year-end deadlines, etc. The impurity of stress can cause the most carefully planned event, project, or undertaking to lose its luster. Stress causes us to perform "lopsided" or at least, less than proficiently.

The great architect Frank Lloyd Wright was given the challenge of building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of the most earthquake-prone cities in the world. Wright's investigation showed that a solid foundation could be "floated" on a sixty-foot layer of soft mud underlying the hotel, which would provide a shock-absorbing but solid support for the immense building. Shortly after the hotel was completed it withstood the worst earthquake in fifty-two years, while lesser buildings fell in ruins around it. "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."- Psalm 37:4

Plant your feet, build your plans, place your trust in the firm foundation of God, and you too will be able to withstand any turmoil that passes by.

In His Grip<>< Erik Hinchey WCSO Chaplain