

# Washington County Sheriff's Office

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



**Fred Newman, Sheriff**

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Toll Free 1-888-461-0414

*"Take the Time to Prevent a Crime"*

**Captain Blake Andis**

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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### Statistics for June

ASSAULT (SIMPLE)	31
BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING	14
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	5
CREDITCARD FRAUD	2
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	21
DUI	10
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	25
DRUNKENNESS	9
EMBEZZLEMENT	5
FALSE PRETENSES/SWINDLE/CONFIDENCE	4
IMPERSONATION	3
LARCENY (ALL OTHER)	37
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	5
RUNAWAY	3
SHOPLIFTING	10
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	3
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	107
TOTAL OFFENSES	294
TOTAL ARRESTS	180 ADULTS 7 JUVENILE
TOTAL WARRANTS	1928 CIVIL 318 CRIMINAL

### Sheriff's Message

This month's newsletter will be on motorcycle safety. It is a great experience being on the open road on a motorcycle. It can also be one of the most hazardous. Unless you are a motorcycle rider you don't realize a lot of things about a motorcycle safety. Most drivers (unintentionally) don't notice motorcycles. Because of the size of a motorcycle, you have to actually look for them. Motorcycles can easily be hidden in cars blind spots or masked by the surroundings. It is difficult to judge a motorcycle distance and speed, because of its size. Always keep in mind that the motorcycle may be closer than you think it is. To keep everyone safe on the road be sure to check closely at intersections, while changing lanes and make sure you don't follow a motorcycle too close. Following a few simple rules will allow everyone to arrive alive. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office. Sheriff Fred Newman

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

08-16	HIGHLANDER PARK	7PM
	Noonkester Field	
08-18	ZION COMMUNITY/Zion Church	7PM
08-23	HAYTERS GAP	10:30AM
	Hayter's Gap Community Center	
08-25	KONNAROCK	7PM
	Konnarock Community Center	
09-06	HIGH POINT/ High Point E. S.	7PM
10-03	BURSONS CORNER	
	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Dept.	7PM

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS

09-01	MENDOTA/Mendota Community Center	
09-06	EAGLE RIDGE/ High Point ES	7PM
09-08	QUAIL RIDGE/Quail Ridge Road	7PM
09-12	CROWEVILLE /GLADE SPRING	7PM
	110 Town Square, Glade Spring	
09-13	HAYTERS GAP EVENING GROUP	7PM
	Clinch Mountain Fire Dept.	
09-15	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S	7PM
	VALLEY/ Zion Church	
09-19	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES/	7PM
	Pleasant View Methodist Church	
09-20	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS	
	Noonkester Field Park	
09-26	GREEN SPRINGS/CLEVELAND/	7PM
	HARBOR LIGHT COMMUNITY	
	Cleveland Community Center	
09-10	WORTHINGTON WAY	5PM
	Worthington Way Road	
10-13	GATE CITY HIGHWAY	7PM
	Three Springs Methodist	
	6610 Reedy Creek Road	
10-11	Woodland Hills	7PM
	Woodland Hills Christian Church	
	16173 Elementary Drive	
12-05	Clayman VALLEY	7PM
	Goodson Kinderhook Fire Department	

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY**

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With the warm, lovely weather of summer upon us, it's a great time to remind drivers that we're sharing the road with others who aren't wrapped protectively in vehicle cocoons of steel, plastic and rubber. Thousands of others are out there on the roads with only two wheels, which are called motorcycles. By riding a motorcycle, a person assumes some risks beyond those that traditional car drivers generally face. The fact that the rider is exposed means that any accident has an increased potential for causing serious injury or death. The fact that motorcycles operate on two wheels causes them to be inherently less stable than other vehicles, and makes them more susceptible to the dangers of road hazards like potholes. Bad weather and strong winds have a much more serious effect on motorcycle riders than they do other drivers. Despite these risks, the gravest threat to the safety of motorcyclists is the other vehicles on the road. Many car drivers become uneasy in the presence of a motorcycle near them on the road. Sometimes, this nervousness can make the driver overly cautious. On the other hand, it can also cause their driving behavior change in such a way that the motorcycle rider is put at undue risk. For some reason, some motorists think that because a motorcycle has two wheels, it does not require the same respect on the road as do other cars. Other people simply do not know how they should react to bikes, and can unintentionally behave recklessly. In either case, it is necessary for car drivers to remember that they must do their part to keep motorcyclists safe, just as they would any other person on the road. Motorcycles have the right to a full lane. This means that drivers should never try to pass a motorcycle without changing lanes or leaving adequate space for the rider to maneuver. On the same note, drivers should not follow motorcycles any closer than they would a car. Because motorcycles are smaller than cars, it is easy for them to be momentarily hidden out of view in blind spots, so drivers must make sure to double check before turning or changing lanes. Because they only have one head and taillight, motorcycles can sometimes be difficult to spot at night, so motorists must be particularly aware in the dark. Finally, car drivers need to understand that motorcycles are heavily affected by weather conditions, and should be given extra space when it is windy, raining, or icy. Many motorcyclists are injured or killed because car drivers do not treat them with adequate respect on the road. As you drive this summer, remember to practice safe driving habits by carefully watching for vehicles of all sizes and be sure to maintain adequate following distances. In addition, be sure to use caution around slower-moving vehicles and drive defensively rather than aggressively to help minimize the dangers to yourself and others on the roads. It's a good time to be safe however you choose to travel. Remember to double-check your blind spots surrounding your vehicle and try to anticipate what bicyclists and motorcyclists are going to do as they cross your path. Give them extra space when following them because they can stop far more quickly than you can stop

your bulky vehicle. Also give them extra space in case they lose control due to road surface irregularities or mechanical problems. Virginia motorcyclists are protected under Virginia motorcycle law that makes negligent drivers responsible and liable to Virginia motorcyclists. What follows are some of the relevant law involving motorcycles in the State of Virginia. 46.2-910 states, Every person operating a motorcycle shall wear a face shield, safety glasses or goggles, or have his motorcycle equipped with safety glass or a windshield at all times while operating the vehicle, and operators and any passengers thereon shall wear protective helmets. Operators and passengers riding on motorcycles with wheels of eight inches or less in diameter or in three-wheeled motorcycles which have non-removable roofs, windshields and enclosed bodies shall not be required to wear protective helmets. The windshields face shields, glasses or goggles, and protective helmets required by this section shall meet or exceed the standards and specifications of the Snell Memorial Foundation, the American National Standards Institute, Inc., or the federal Department of Transportation. Failure to wear a face shield, safety glasses or goggles, or protective helmets shall not constitute negligence per se in any civil proceeding. The provisions of this section requiring the wearing of protective helmets shall not apply to operators of or passengers on motorcycles being operated (i) as part of an organized parade authorized by the Department of Transportation or the locality in which the parade is being conducted and escorted, accompanied, or participated in by law-enforcement officers of the jurisdiction wherein the parade is held and (ii) at speeds of no more than 15 miles per hour. The bottom line is to be careful watch out for motorcycles, sharing the road is not a gift or courteous it's the law and should be treated as such.

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**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

According to a Greek legend, in ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little boys. He laughed and jeered at Aesop, asking him why he wasted his time in such frivolous activity. Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, "Now, answer the riddle, if you can. Tell us what the unstrung bows imply." The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, "If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be fit for use when you want it." People are also like that. That's why we all need to take time to rest. Jesus prescribed time off for His wearied disciples after they had returned from a prolonged period of ministry. And in the Old Testament, God set a pattern for us when He "rested from all His work" (Gen.2:3). Shouldn't we take His example seriously? Start by setting aside a special time to relax physically and renew yourself emotionally and spiritually. You will be at your best for the Lord if you have taken time to loosen the bow. Rest is not a bad thing at all, and it is no sin to "recharge your batteries" from time to time. Seeking Christ <>< Erik Hinchey WCSO Chaplain