

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 April

Aggravated Assault	1
Assault (Simple)	16
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	11
Credit Card Fraud	5
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	16
Driving Under the Influence	2
Drug/Narcotic Violations	7
Drunkenness	4
Impersonation	10
Intimidation	0
Larceny (all other)	39
Liquor Law Violations	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Shoplifting	19
Trespass	2
Weapon Law Violations	2
All Other Offenses	130
Total Offenses	268

Total Arrest	Total Warrants
Adult- 124	Criminal- 319
Juvenile- 10	Civil- 1,986

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Preventing a sexual assault is at the core of the Washington County Sheriff's Office mission. As an agency, it is our goal to eliminate sexual assaults & ensure our citizens the freedom to live without fear. In this month's news letter we want to address the community on safety issues concerning predators & provide resources that may help you keep your family safe. We want our citizens to know that we have dedicated individuals who spend countless hours preventing internet crimes against children with an overall mission to ensure that you and your family may live without the fear of being victimized.

Sheriff Fred Newman

Monthly Meeting Schedule

06-03	BURSON CORNER (1 st Monday) <i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	7:00 PM
06-04	HIGH POINT (1 st Tuesday) <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
06-06	MENDOTA (1 st Thursday) <i>Mendota Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
06-13	TAYLORS VALLEY (2 nd Thursday) <i>Taylor's Valley Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
06-18	HIGHLANDER PARK (3 rd Tuesday) <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
06-20	ZION COMMUNITY (3 rd Thursday) <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
06-25	HAYTERS GAP (4 th Tuesday) <i>Hayters Gap Community Center</i>	10:30 AM
06-25	POOR VALLEY (4 th Tuesday) <i>Valley View Assembly of God Church</i>	7:00 PM
06-27	KONNAROCK (4 th Thursday) <i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	7:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

06-03	CLAYMAN VALLEY <i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	7:00 PM
06-04	EAGLE RIDGE <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
06-10	CROWEVILLE/ GLADE SPRING <i>Glade Spring Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
06-11	HAYTERS GAP EVENING <i>Clinch Mtn. Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
06-13	QUAIL RIDGE /WORTHINGTON WAY <i>Ely Residence</i>	7:00 PM
06-17	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES <i>Pleasant View Methodist</i>	7:00 PM
06-18	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
06-20	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
06-24	OAKWOOD DRIVE <i>McDaniel Residence</i>	7:00 PM
07-09	WOODLAND HILLS <i>Woodland Hills Christian Church</i>	7:00 PM
07-11	GATE CITY HWY <i>Three Springs Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM

Sex Offender

Just when you think your neighborhood is safe, all of a sudden your sense of security has been shaken. Discovering there is a sex offender living in your neighborhood can cause a range of feelings. Fear, lack of safety, loss of control, and even anger are just a few emotions that one may experience. The media sets a certain stereotype of what a sex offender may or may not look like. In reality it is hard to pinpoint a pedophile because there is no exact criminal profile. A sex offender could be anyone. The fact of the matter is they just might be your neighbor. Offenders prey on men, women, children, geriatrics, and the mentally disabled. We are all at risk of being victimized. With this being said; it is not just the community we have to worry about.

Society has changed into a world that can't live without the internet. The internet is a world full of knowledge, but it is also a breeding ground for pedophiles. At the touch of the "on" button on your computer, you very well could be inviting sex offenders and other criminals into the privacy of your home via the internet and not even realize it. Before you go into "panic mode" we would like to take the time to inform you of some things that you and your community can do to make the situation more manageable.

- Start by learning the facts. Accurate information about the situation may help to put your mind at ease.
- Have a family safety plan and discuss it regularly with your children or grandchildren. We need to teach our children more than just the basics of "Stranger Danger". It is crucial for you and your family to know and understand the convincing ploys an offender or abductor may attempt.
- Use your increased awareness to overcome the illusion of safety; your knowledge will help prepare you to protect your family from hidden dangers.
- Know your neighbors. Know what your children are doing at all times. Don't just assume that the friendly neighbor who came from a good family will have the same standards of supervising as you do. Ask questions, and go with your intuitions or "gut feelings" if you do not feel comfortable with a situation.
- Monitor your internet access, and never let a child use the computer alone. Never give out personal information or agree to meet with someone that you do not know. If you have to, take someone with you and meet in well lit public place.

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Detective J. Blevins & Detective B. Nichols of the Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office are members of the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. If you, or an organization would like to request an Internet Safety Presentation please feel free to call or come by the office. We can provide you with the resources you need & answer any questions that you may have. With extensive knowledge of Internet Crimes & Safety, it is our mission to help you protect your family from being victimized by an online predator.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" [Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in The Gulag Archipelago.](#)

The ability and desire is within each of us to make wrong or bad decisions, and it is simple to make a bad choice. But we must make a cognitive decision to make a good choice or a right decision. We need to also keep in mind that though we have, or may make a bad decision, we are not "unforgivable" or "unredeemable", but the road to that plateau may be a little further on our return trip.

Seeking Still <><
Erik Hinchey
WCSO Chaplain