

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Sheriff Fred Newman
 276-676-6000
 276-669-7134
 Toll Free 1-888-461-0414



Captain Gary Coleman
 Lieutenant Greg Hogston
 Deputy Erik Hinchey
 Neighborhood Watch Coordinator's
 Neighborhoodwatch@washso.org

"Take the time to prevent a crime"

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 08

August, 2013

Statistics for June

Aggravated Assault	4
Assault (Simple)	19
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	12
Credit Card Fraud	2
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	17
Driving Under the Influence	6
Drug/Narcotic Violations	19
Drunkenness	7
Impersonation	6
Intimidation	1
Larceny (all other)	27
Liquor Law Violations	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Shoplifting	13
Trespass	1
Weapon Law Violations	6
All Other Offenses	112
Total Offenses	256

Total Arrest	Total Warrants
Adult- 140	Criminal- 313
Juvenile- 3	Civil- 1681

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

In our county we have beautiful scenery and we often see people enjoying it while walking or riding their bicycle. Everyone has a part in keeping those people safe. We need to remember that pedestrians and bicyclist have a right to be on the roadway. When you see someone walking or riding their bicycles, please make an extra effort to slow down and go around them in a safe fashion. If they are at a crosswalk the pedestrian has the right of way. A bicycle rider must obey all traffic laws as if he was operating a motor vehicle. When possible please use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes to walk or ride. If you have a question or concern, please contact our office.

Sheriff Fred Newman

Monthly Meeting Schedule

8-01	MENDOTA (1 st Thursday) <i>Mendota Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
8-05	BURSON CORNER (1 st Monday) <i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	7:00 PM
8-06	HIGH POINT (1 st Tuesday) Cancelled* <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
8-08	TAYLORS VALLEY (2 nd Thursday) <i>Taylor's Valley Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
8-15	ZION COMMUNITY (3 RD Thursday) <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
8-20	HIGHLANDER PARK (3 rd Tuesday) <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
8-22	KONNAROCK (4 th Thursday) <i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
8-27	HAYTERS GAP (4 th Tuesday) <i>Hayters Gap Community Center</i>	10:30 AM
8-27	POOR VALLEY (4 th Tuesday) <i>Valley View Assembly of God Church</i>	7:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

9-02	CLAYMAN VALLEY <i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	7:00 PM
9-03	EAGLE RIDGE <i>High Point Elementary School</i>	7:00 PM
9-09	CROWEVILLE/ GLADE SPRING <i>Glade Spring Community Center</i>	7:00 PM
9-10	HAYTERS GAP EVENING <i>Clinch Mtn. Fire Department</i>	7:00 PM
9-12	QUAIL RIDGE /WORTHINGTON WAY <i>Ely Residence</i>	7:00 PM
9-16	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES <i>Pleasant View Methodist</i>	7:00 PM
9-17	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS <i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	7:00 PM
9-19	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY <i>Zion Church</i>	7:00 PM
9-23	OAKWOOD DRIVE <i>McDaniel Residence</i>	7:00 PM
10-08	WOODLAND HILLS <i>Woodland Hills Christian Church</i>	7:00 PM
10-10	GATE CITY HWY <i>Three Springs Methodist Church</i>	7:00 PM

Be Aware. Share The Road, Save A Life.

Be Aware. Share The Road, Save A Life.

DRIVE SMART Virginia and Bike Virginia are working with businesses, schools, state employees and others to create partnerships that will encourage mutual respect on roads in the Commonwealth. Further, we want residents to **Be Aware. Share The Road, Save A Life.** It's important to avoid unsafe behaviors like distracted driving, or anything that takes your eyes or mind off the road. "A distracted driver is one of the most dangerous obstacles a bicyclist or someone running or walking may face. And many of us are distracted when we're driving," said Janet Brooking, Executive Director of DRIVE SMART Virginia.

Motorists should also give bicyclists plenty of room when passing. "In Virginia, it's a good idea to give at least three feet of space when passing a bicyclist. Drivers should slow down and wait to pass if there's oncoming traffic," said Kim Perry, Executive Director of Bike Virginia. "Bicyclists must also know and obey all traffic laws," Perry said.

Join Washington County Sheriff's Office as we work to educate Virginians during the 2013 Virginia Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Week, September 9th – 15th.

Here are some basic tips that help make roadways safer for all users.

- Allow a safety cushion. Slow down, wait until the roadway is safe for passing cyclists and walkers, and pass with at least 3 feet of clearance.
- Yield right of way to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks.
- Remember vehicle extensions. A side mirror or trailer can be deadly for people walking or biking.
- Understand that the smallest bump to a cyclist or pedestrian can be fatal.
- Minimize your distractions. Distracted drivers are more likely to hit bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Do not assume ill intent and become frustrated by bicyclists or people walking or running.

Laws and responsibilities are designed to keep everyone moving about smoothly and safely.

Here are some of the basic facts.

1. Motorists are required by law to approach and pass bicyclists at a reasonable speed and allow at least two feet between your vehicle and the cyclist. Three feet of safety cushion is even better.
2. A bicycle is considered a vehicle in Virginia and has the same duties and rights as cars on the road, including obeying all traffic signs, signals, lights and markings. A bicycle should always travel in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic. Cyclists are not permitted to ride on interstates or other controlled access roadways.

3. Motorists are required to use signals to notify other roadway users of intent and cyclists must do the same using hand signals. Behaving in a predictable manner while driving, biking, or walking can reduce the risk of crashes.

4. Cyclists can also protect themselves by wearing a helmet; bright clothing, using flashing lights during day and night, and securing loose pant legs or other loose clothing

5. Pedestrians can improve safety by wearing bright colors during the day and reflective material or blinking lights at night. Light colored clothing is slightly helpful in making you visible at night, reflective tape or reflective fabric is much better.

5. All road users should be aware of their surroundings, including paying special attention to blind spots where other roadway users may be hidden. Be aware of "inattention blindness," and use extra caution when road changes are present and in entrances and exits.

6. Pedestrians must travel against traffic when walking in the road, use sidewalks whenever available, and use marked crossings whenever possible. Motorists and cyclists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, both marked and unmarked, when making a right turn on red, or as instructed by law enforcement or traffic control devices.

7. Local ordinance determines use of sidewalks by bicycles and other alternative devices. When permitted to be on sidewalks, bicycles should yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

Help make the road safe for everyone. Remember, "**Be Aware. Share the Road, Save a Life.**"

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In the summer of 1986, two ships collided in the Black Sea off the coast of Russia. Hundreds of passengers died as they were hurled into the icy waters below. News of the disaster was further darkened when an investigation revealed the cause of the accident. It wasn't a technology problem like radar malfunction--or even thick fog. The cause was human stubbornness. Each captain was aware of the other ship's presence nearby. Both could have steered clear, but according to news reports, neither captain wanted to give way to the other. Each was too proud to yield first. By the time they came to their senses, it was too late. *Closer Walk, December, 1991.*

Sharing is not something that we have a tendency to do naturally. The challenge for this month is to share the road with pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles. Play nice, be willing to "give way" to others, share the road and save a life.

Riding along <><

Erik Hinchey
WCSO Chaplain