

# 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 July

Aggravated Assault	1
Assault (Simple)	23
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	16
Credit Card Fraud	2
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	17
Driving Under the Influence	5
Drug/Narcotic Violations	11
Drunkenness	11
Impersonation	6
Kidnapping	2
Larceny ( all other )	43
Liquor Law Violations	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Shoplifting	21
Trespass	2
All Other Offenses	80
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>242</b>

Total Arrest	Total Warrants
Adult- 139	Criminal- 381
Juvenile- 5	Civil- 1,881

### SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

A home invasion is frightening because it is a violation of your personal space. Most victims of home invasions find it hard to feel completely relaxed in their homes after an invasion has occurred.

There are some simple, common sense steps you can take to make you feel safe in your home. Install a security system, or at least install solid locks on all doors and windows. When on vacation take extra measures to make it look as if someone is home. Don't have the same routine every day. If someone is watching your residence and they don't know if you are home it makes them a little less likely to break in.

It is your responsibility to take charge of your home by doing what you can to minimize the risk of a home invasion.

*Sheriff Fred Newman*

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

09-02	BURSON CORNER (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday) *Cancelled	7:00 PM
	<i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	
09-03	HIGH POINT (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:00 PM
	<i>High Point Elementary School</i>	
09-05	MENDOTA (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Mendota Community Center</i>	
09-12	TAYLORS VALLEY (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Taylor's Valley Community Center</i>	
09-19	ZION COMMUNITY (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Zion Church</i>	
09-17	HIGHLANDER PARK (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	
9-24	HAYTERS GAP (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)	10:30 AM
	<i>Hayters Gap Community Center</i>	
9-24	POOR VALLEY (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Valley View Assembly of God Church</i>	
9-26	KONNAROCK (4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)	7:00 PM
	<i>Konnarock Community Center</i>	

### Quarterly Meeting Schedule

9-2	CLAYMAN VALLEY *Cancelled	7:00 PM
	<i>Goodson Kinderhook FD</i>	
9-3	EAGLE RIDGE	7:00 PM
	<i>High Point Elementary School</i>	
9-9	CROWEVILLE/ GLADE SPRING	7:00 PM
	<i>Glade Spring Community Center</i>	
9-12	QUAIL RIDGE /WORTHINGTON WAY	7:00 PM
	<i>Ely Residence</i>	
9-16	MELVIN HILLS/OAK HILL ESTATES	7:00 PM
	<i>Pleasant View Methodist</i>	
9-17	EVERGREEN HILLS/LOWRY HILLS	7:00 PM
	<i>Noonkester Field Park</i>	
9-19	RAMBLEWOOD/WIDENER'S VALLEY	7:00 PM
	<i>Zion Church</i>	
9-23	OAKWOOD DRIVE	7:00 PM
	<i>McDaniel Residence</i>	
9-24	HAYTERS GAP EVENING	7:00 PM
	<i>Poor Valley/Valley View Assembly of God</i>	
10-8	WOODLAND HILLS	7:00 PM
	<i>Woodland Hills Christian Church</i>	
10-10	GATE CITY HWY	7:00 PM
	<i>Three Springs Methodist Church</i>	

## *Home Invasion Prevention*

## Home Invasion Prevention

Home invasion is defined as unauthorized forceful entry into a dwelling with intent to commit crimes such as larceny or assault and battery. In recent events, our communities have become more aware of the possibilities that a home invasion can happen. Not only does it make us more aware, but our senses have become more heightened for awareness.

An estimated 3.7 million home burglaries occur per year in the United States. Out of those 3.7 million, about 28% occurred while a household member was present, and 7% ended with violent victimization of the household member. The first 60 seconds of a home invasion is usually the most violent. Statistics show that home invasions are steadily on the rise. With commercialized business's enhancing their security measures with surveillance cameras and alarm systems, more and more criminals are choosing to invade homes with hopes that they are less likely to get caught. Awareness is the key, and this is where you have the chance to help prevent a home invasion from happening to you or your neighbor. A safer community consists of neighbors watching after neighbors. Here are a few tips to help make your property less vulnerable to home invasions and burglaries, but how to watch out for each other as well.

- ❖ Awareness along with being alert is a vital key to prevention. Be aware of your surroundings. Do not leave valuables, medication, or money laying in plain view. If they can see it from a window or door, they will try to take it no matter the consequences.
- ❖ Help neighbors keep an eye out for suspicious activity, if you see something that you think may be suspicious, don't hesitate to call 911.
- ❖ Keep all doors and windows locked even if you are there.
- ❖ Install and arm a security system with audible alarms.
- ❖ Teach your family and other members of the community to never open the door for anyone unexpected. If someone comes to your door wanting to use the phone, attempt to make the phone call for them, but do not open the door. Harmless people will know and understand that you are just being safe.
- ❖ Precautions and common sense can help keep home invaders from attempting to invade your property.
- ❖ Don't ever agree to go anywhere with a stranger, the second scene is almost always more violent.
- ❖ Do not ever attempt to follow an intruder once they leave your residence, this is highly dangerous. Leave the police work for the police.

## Plan Washington County



Washington County will host open meetings at the times and dates listed below. The meeting will provide an overview of the county's comprehensive plan project and obtain citizen feedback on a variety of issues. This is the first of seven "Plan-Washington County" meetings to be held in the County.

The comprehensive plan project, known as "Plan-Washington County", will serve as the County's blueprint for the next twenty years. Once adopted, it will be utilized as a guide for elected and public officials and provide the framework for evaluating future land use and public investment proposals. Although required by the Code of Virginia, the comprehensive plan will be so much more to the County. Preparation of the plan offers the opportunity for the public to work with County leaders and staff to create a vision for development that can be implemented in a responsible, conscious, and considerate way.

Public participation is the vital key to the success of the project, and input will be obtained on a wide range of issues including but not limited to land use, transportation, recreation, arts and culture, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure and community facilities, housing and economic development. County leaders encourage the public to get involved!

September 5, 2013 - Glade Spring Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
September 19, 2013 - Greendale Elementary School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
October 1, 2013 - John Battle High School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
October 15, 2013 - Valley Institute Elementary School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
October 17, 2013 - Green Spring Fire Department, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
November 7, 2013 - Abingdon High School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

When a person is right with God they are apt to be hard on themselves and easy on others, but when they are not, they more likely to be easy on themselves and hard on others. This quote was used in a recent message that was delivered to a local church. It was followed with this common question:

Are you where you should be? All of us get lost. Depending on where you live, you may find yourself lost more often than not. Sometimes spiritually we can feel lost too. Whether it's a broken relationship, a lost job, or just a general sense of spiritual disorientation, these times come for all of us. It's the feeling that our lives and the world we live in should be perfect, yet they are somehow broken. Jesus is aware that we feel that way and even says in Luke 19:10 that it was his mission on earth to help people who are lost. Jesus cared so much about helping others, yet for us other people often take a back seat to our own interests. Let us make an effort to keep our hearts in line with Christ's, and our relationships, our friendships, and our overall life focus will benefit.

In His Grip<><  
Erik Hinchey  
WCSO Chaplain