



# Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



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CHIEF OF POLICE

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IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE  
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

(630) 529-9868

[www.villageofbloomingtondale.org](http://www.villageofbloomingtondale.org)

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...

Next meeting is the **Open Forum with Village Officials on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Room.**



The only way to begin the New Year of 2014 is with the annual "Open Forum" meeting. The meeting features representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Village Services Department. The speakers will each present a "State of Bloomingtondale" address as they summarize the current status and future developments for each agency. The Village continues to grow and change, in which the public is encouraged to attend and bring any questions or concerns to this unique and insightful evening. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided.

**Hope to see you there!**



### 2014 Neighborhood Watch Meetings:

January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	July 16 <sup>th</sup>
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	September 17 <sup>th</sup>
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	November 19 <sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – National Night Out Against Crime

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

With everything going through computer systems and the potential for Identity Theft, the November Neighborhood Watch Meeting featured Sean Luster, Bloomingtondale Public Library Head of Computer Services. Sean has a degree and 17 years of experience in the technology field, in which he leads many of the computer classes to help citizens bridge that fine line of Internet usage opportunities and the safety aspect of those actions.

Sean Luster provided a brief overview of how computers connect to the Internet and the security concerns involved. **There are two primary concerns for computer users to focus on: what information is sent from their computer to the Web and what information/files are brought from the web to their computer.** The information sent out is a concern for privacy reasons. The information/files being taken in may be a risk to the computer's functioning. Computer vulnerabilities are similar to those of telephones and the safety aspect needs to be a priority. Most online

organizations attempt to provide security for their customers and familiar companies are usually reliable with their security, yet nothing is 100%. Most computer viruses will not be immediately obvious. Instead, the viruses slowly build up small problems that eventually cause security or computer performance problems. When installing software from online sources, be sure you know what it is for and whether or not it comes with spyware concerns. Couponing, gambling, fake security, and video websites are particularly dangerous for spyware infections. Fishing e-mails and pop-ups will request personal information, often posing as contacts from real banks or organizations. Keep in mind **no legitimate company will ever ask you for account information over e-mail.** Most of these concerns occur when working with the browser; updates to your computer that give notification in the system tray (bottom right corner of the screen) are usually safe and are often helpful in increasing security. Examples of these include Apple software, Windows Updates, Adobe Acrobat, Java, and antivirus software products.

We can't eliminate all risk, but you can improve your chances by following some **safety steps:** Create good passwords, change them periodically and don't use the same one for everything. Go to web addresses yourself rather than through e-mailed links. Do financial transactions on a trusted computer (usually home computer). If there is any uncertainty, check with someone else before installing/downloading/saving something. **Children should be reminded to:** Never post personal information. Be aware that the Internet is forever and anything they say/show can become public. Increase privacy settings for social media such as Facebook. Be aware that identities online might not be real.

**To reduce viruses and spyware:** Buy or acquire active protection – subscription software that monitors traffic coming into your computer and attempts to stop it before doing damage. Typically costs \$50-100/year and you can only run one product on your computer. Also, clean PCs with spyware removal products such as Malware Bytes or Spybot. Be careful where you download from though, some websites will attach problem files along with cleaning

software. CNET.com is a reliable source. If your computer notifies you that it is infected and suggests buying a product to remove the infection, then it is most likely a fake notification indicating a different kind of infection. It can be removed without purchasing the software. Be aware that these sorts of false scans and warnings are common signs of spyware issues. Write down the details and messages provided, then go to a working computer to research the issue. **Be very cautious of any source requesting your information** – if you initiate the visit to the website and begin a purchasing or registration process, then the transaction is usually safe. But, if a pop-up, banner ad, or email message is encouraging you to give them their information through threats of problems or promise of prizes, you should be suspicious.

Those at the meeting and the community as a whole are encouraged to take advantage of the computer classes available throughout the year at the Bloomingdale Library. Please contact the Computer Services Department in person, by phone (630) 924-2767, or online at [www.mybpl.org](http://www.mybpl.org).

As many are recovering from the holiday shopping spree, please keep safety in mind as you review the purchases made during the past few weeks. **Identity theft** continues in our communities, so as a precaution please remember to contact the fraud department of each of the three major credit bureaus periodically throughout the year.

Equifax: To report fraud: 1-800-525-6285  
To order your credit report: 1-800-685-1111

Experian: To report fraud: 1-888-EXPERIAN  
To order your credit report: 1-888-EXPERIAN

Trans Union: To report fraud: 1-800-680-7289  
To order your credit report: 1-800-916-8800

To see if you qualify for a free credit report from all three credit bureaus, contact 1-877-FACT ACT.

### **SAFETY REMINDERS:** **AT HOME:**

- Secure doors and windows at all times.
- When unoccupied, then make your home appear to be occupied; use timers on lights, radio, and T.V.
- Do not advertise vacation plans on social networking sites or casually with businesses you may frequent.
- Ask a friend or relative to check on things while you are away on vacation.
- Notify police department of the dates you will be away.

### **WINTER DRIVING TIPS:**



- Plan ahead – route, time of day, traffic, weather forecasts. Allow extra time for travel.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Clean windshield, windows, rear windows, headlights, brake lights, and license plate area, especially if snow is on the vehicle.
- Keep your car's headlights on low beam. This provides better visibility particularly in fog or snow.
- Use turn signals.
- Watch the car in front of you for signs of trouble. Keep extra space between cars. Anticipate and prepare for slippery roads or other dangers.
- If you travel below the posted speed limit, please stay in the far right lane to avoid any speeding vehicles.
- If you miss an exit or street, go to the next exit / street. Do not cause an accident in a last minute maneuver; drivers behind can only do so much to avoid you.
- If you need to slow down or stop on a slick road, apply the brakes firmly and steadily, but not so firmly that they lock up. As you begin to slow, gently ease up on the brakes. Do not pump the brakes.
- If you skid, don't panic. Take your foot off the brake and then steer in the direction of the skid. Once the car regains traction, you can straighten the wheel.
- For emergency vehicles, please slow down and move to the right lanes, if possible. Make sure that all emergency vehicles have passed before resuming driving.
- If you have an accident, stay in your vehicle and always contact the police.

### **CURRENT CASES BEING INVESTIGATED...**

**Burglary to Motor Vehicle-Lifetime Fitness 455 Scott Dr.**  
Reports have shown that unknown person(s) have been shattering vehicles' windows to obtain items, such as purses, electronic devices, currency, etc., located inside the cars. The vehicles have been parked, secured and left unattended when the incidents occurred. Please do not leave valuables inside your vehicles and if you see any suspicious person(s) or vehicles in any parking lot, please call 9-1-1.



**Theft Meijer's – 130 S. Gary Avenue**  
A Carol Stream woman reported that on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 8:49 p.m., she realized that she left her cellular phone in the shopping cart. She returned to the store to check the area, but with negative results. No further information at this time.