



# Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE  
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

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**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013**

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...

How “tech savvy” are you? Do you know the best safety tips while on your electronic devices?

world to anyone with access to an “on-line” connection. People have direct access through a wireless connection and can do most things on their “smart” phones as they walk down the street. Now is the time that many will make on-line purchases for the upcoming holidays. The Internet provides us with great opportunities, but many can run the risk of becoming a target for crime and exploitation. Just like young adults, everyone needs reminders of the “Rules of the “Road” to safely travel the information superhighway.



Please join us at the next **Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Bloomingtondale Public Library (lower level).**

The library’s Computer Services Department Head, Sean Luster, will give a safety presentation regarding technology and he will address the public’s questions or concerns about using such devices. Refreshments will be provided.

**Hope to see you there!!!**

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

During the September Neighborhood Watch General Meeting, the audience was given information about the “drug dealer” lurking in their medicine cabinet. Karen Budnik, the Communications Supervising Coordinator for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), gave the AWARe Presentation to the audience regarding the abuse of prescription drugs. AWARe is a consumer protection program provided by NABP, in which NABP is an impartial professional organization that supports the state boards of pharmacy in creating uniform regulations to protect the public health. Karen Budnik encouraged the proper disposal of unused/expired medications which helps prevent the misuse and abuse of such items. There has been an increase of children and young adults who access a parent’s or grandparent’s medicine cabinet and they have taken the available medications and/or given it to friends.



The unused or expired medications can be taken to a local medication disposal program, such as the one located at the Bloomingtondale Police Department, or there are area medication

take-back events, which are posted at different times of the year. For some areas that do not have a collection program,

the Food and Drug Administration have guidelines for disposing unwanted medications in the home. In summary – **1.** Check the label and follow instructions for safe disposal. **2.** Do not flush the drugs down the toilet, unless the label states it. **3.** If there are no instructions on label, then take medication out of container and mix with an undesirable substance, example coffee grounds or cat litter. Seal the mixture and dispose in home garbage.

Safely managing and disposing of household generated sharps reduces pollution to the environment and prevents injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks. Similar to prescription drugs, many states have options available for safe disposal of sharp items, such as hazardous waste sites, mail-back programs, and syringe exchange programs. For our area, needles may be safely disposed at home by doing the following: **1.** Place used sharps in an empty household container such as a laundry detergent bottle, bleach bottle, or other opaque sturdy container with a screw-top lid. **2.** Insert the needles point-first, mark the bottle “Do Not Recycle”, and store with the cap screwed on. **3.** When the container is half-full, seal the cap with duct tape and place in the garbage (not recycling). Never place loose needles, syringes, or lancets in the trash.

Karen Budnik also discussed the interest of consumers buying their medication on-line and the possible dangers in such purchases. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has reviewed more than 10,000 web sites selling prescription drugs, in which it appears that only 3% of these sites appear to be in compliance with state and federal laws and NABP patient safety & pharmacy practice standards. The other 97% of these sites are considered **rogue sites** and are listed as **Not Recommended** on the AWARe web site, [www.AWARe.org](http://www.AWARe.org) For your protection, you should look for the VIPPS Seal (Verified-Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites), as seen on 60 Minutes, Dr. Oz and The Doctors. Also, don’t forget about your pet, in which you can protect them by looking for the Vet-VIPPS Seal when purchasing their medications online.

Karen Budnik provided a handout that to help consumers with National Resources and Discount Prescription Sources.

VIPPS – [www.AWARe.org](http://www.AWARe.org) provides a full listing of VIPPS sites

**Partnership for Prescription Assistance:** [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) or #1-888-477-2669, helps match patients to appropriate health care and prescription assistance programs.

**Medicare:** [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pub/pdf/11318.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pub/pdf/11318.pdf)  
Lists resources for prescription drug coverage.

**BenefitsCheckUp:** [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) A service of the National Council on Aging. Provides information about local, state and federal as well as private prescription assistance programs.

**NACo Prescription Discount Card Program:** [www.naco.org/programs/residents/Pages/pdcp.aspx](http://www.naco.org/programs/residents/Pages/pdcp.aspx) or #1-877-321-2652. A free program for residents of the National Association of Counties (NACo) member counties.

Please share this information to raise awareness for these safety issues.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The following dates have been scheduled for the **2014 Neighborhood Watch General Meetings:**

January 15	– Open Forum with Village Officials
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	August 5 <sup>th</sup> (National Night Out Against Crime)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	September 17 <sup>th</sup>
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	November 19 <sup>th</sup>

### **SAFETY REMINDERS:**

#### **Vehicle maintenance for all types of weather:**

Clean windshield, windows, rear window, headlights, brake lights.  
Fuel: ½ - ¾ full at all times.  
Tires: properly inflated, not under or over inflated for better traction. Check spare tire.  
Check for working / functioning lights, turn signals, brake lights, wiper blades, door locks, window locks.  
Fluid checks: oil, windshield wiper fluid.  
Good floor mats.  
Regular tune-up.  
Emergency kit & First aid kit.  
**Note:** Any flashing or red lights, not good.  
Please get problem checked.

#### **Be Alert!**

The holiday season is upon us and many feel charitable toward others this time of the year. Although you may want to spread the “good feelings” to those in need, the public should be aware of suspicious activities that may occur around commercial areas of our town. In the past, individuals have approached citizens and asked them for money to purchase gasoline for their vehicles or for other needs. There may be *claims* that the individual’s car ran out of gas and they have no other way to get back home, yet they may have a friend in a vehicle nearby. The ruse has taken place in front of business entrance ways and in the parking lots as citizens are entering, exiting, or sitting inside their vehicle. Incidents can occur near areas like Wal-Mart, the Springbrook shopping area (Lake Street) and Stratford Square Mall. These individuals have asked citizens for money ranging from \$4.00 - \$10.00 to help their cause. Some have been quite persistent in their request for financial help.

The Bloomingdale Police Department strongly discourages citizens from getting involved with such a matter and to notify the police department if someone needs assistance. Although,

many want to lend a hand to their fellow citizen, it would be better to play it safe and get help for the situation. There are unscrupulous individuals who will say or do anything for a buck. **Note:** Donations to any charity/organization should be verified as legitimate worthwhile causes and their donation procedures fully explained.

Please be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times and contact store personnel, security officers and/or local police departments regarding any and all suspicious persons and activity.

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

#### **Theft**

##### **Wal-Mart 314 W. Army Trail Road**

A Carol Stream woman reported that sometime between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2013, person(s) unknown removed her wallet while she was shopping. No suspect information at this time.



##### **Burglary to Motor Vehicle 200 Block of Biscayne**

A Bloomingdale man reported that sometime between 9:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2013, person(s) unknown entered two of his unlocked vehicles and rummaged through them. Unknown if anything is missing. Both vehicles were parked and unattended in the driveway at the time of the incident. Nothing further at this time.

### **EVENTS**

#### **2013 Bloomingdale Police Department Open House**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloomingdale Police Department Open House occurred on Saturday, October 26, 2013, and it was a wonderful community event, in which over 1000 people were in attendance! “Thanks” to all the Senior Citizen Advisory Council members, Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and other volunteers for your contributions which led to its success. We would like to recognize and extend our gratitude for your time and hard work towards the event. Also, a “Thank You” to Mori Milk, who made a gracious donation of milk products for the occasion, which many children and adults appreciated. During the event, the children dressed in costumes and with their family members, they visited the police department facility with its decorated jail cells. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the seasonal weather and it was an excellent way to begin the Halloween festivities. It was truly a fun, family event!

#### **Annual “Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops”**

Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops is organized by the Bloomingdale Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #175. Each holiday season, the officers of the department seek to share and spread joy to community children in need. This event is a great opportunity for area children to meet with local police officers in the holiday “Spirit of Giving”, in which each child is accompanied by a Bloomingdale police officer while shopping for gifts to be personally enjoyed or to give to other family members. If interested, the public can make contributions towards the event. Please contact Officer Dawn Odoi at (630) 529-9868 to make a donation for such a worthwhile occasion.

