Bloomingdale Neighborhood Watch

IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

JULY / AUGUST 2013

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING…

Does a Drug Dealer Lurk in Your Medicine Cabinet? Abuse of Prescription Drugs Can Lead to Injury, Illness, and Death.

Prescription drug abuse is at epidemic levels according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 52 million Americans have misused prescription drugs <u>and</u> 100 people die from prescription drug overdoses every day in the United States. In fact, prescription pain killer overdoses kill more people than heroin and cocaine combined.

Please join us for our next **Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th, 2013, 7:30 p.m. in the Bloomingdale Police Department Training Room (lower level).** Learn how to protect yourself, family, and friends at the AWARxE® presentation on prescription drug safety: misuse/abuse, proper storage/disposal, safe Internet purchasing, and dangers of counterfeit drugs. The public is encouraged to attend and bring any questions or concerns.

Refreshments will be provided. **Hope to see you there!**
Join us for a real eye-opening experience!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS…

The July Neighborhood Watch General Meeting developed into a discussion about the Neighborhood Watch Program <u>and</u> the role of a Block Captain, especially due to the events in the news. Officer Odoi addressed the audience questions and concerns, in which to clarify any misunderstandings. The Bloomingdale Police Department encourages residents to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program to promote this successful partnership between the community and law enforcement.   There are still areas in the community which do not have a Block Captain at this time. The following is a description of the program and the role of a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain.

The **Neighborhood Watch Program** is a cooperative effort between the residents of Bloomingdale <u>and</u> the Bloomingdale Police Department designed to help reduce burglary, vandalism and other neighborhood crimes. Its operational objectives are to disseminate information to homeowners on how to protect themselves, their property, and their community; to establish communication and helpful relationships between neighbors; and to create real and psychological restraints for criminals.

Neighborhood Watch <u>goes beyond</u> the concept of securing your own home. It means caring about your neighbors, being aware of who is in the neighborhood, and what is happening. It also means calling the police and your neighbors if you see suspicious people, vehicles, or activity. <u>It gives you and your neighbors a greater sense of security when you know someone cares</u>.

As criminals become aware of areas having Neighborhood Watch groups, they avoid them and move to other neighborhoods, because they know that the <u>residents are alert and will report</u> their activities to the police.

<u>Awareness</u> and <u>Involvement</u> are the keys to a successful Neighborhood Watch Program – keeping interest high and continuing the groups' crime prevention education must be a primary focus for all participants. Through involvement, residents can take significant steps to deter, delay, or detect burglaries, vandalism, and theft, thus, making Bloomingdale a safer place to live.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Watch Program has <u>general meetings on the third Wednesday of every other month</u> (The third Wednesday of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November).

WANTED:
Neighborhood Watch Block Captains
The primary link / spokesperson of a particular residential area to the police department.

<u>Minimum number of homes involved w/ a Block Captain</u>: 5
Responsibilities / Duties:

- Meet with each resident in your area and provide an invitation to be involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program.

- Maintain a listing of all your involved residents.

- Gather information, questions and concerns, from residents and then contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator (Officer Dawn Odoi) for answers.

- Provide current information from the Bloomingdale Police Department to your neighbors regarding criminal activity affecting your residential area.

- Distribute the Neighborhood Watch newsletter to neighbors' homes or by e-mail.

- Obtain recent Village and Police activities information through attendance at Neighborhood Watch General Meetings.

Being a Block Captain is not a hard or time-consuming job. It mostly involves becoming aware of activities in your area, taking the time to report them, and disseminating information to your neighbors. A Neighborhood Watch Block Captain is a vital **and** necessary role for the success of the Neighborhood Watch Program and to preserve the safety and quality of life in Bloomingdale.

Any questions about the Neighborhood Watch Program or interested in becoming a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, please contact Officer Dawn Odoi at (630) 529-9868.

SAFETY REMINDERS:

Many people are taking advantage of the last warm weather days and enjoying the great outdoors. The Bloomingdale Police Department wants students and parents to be aware that some unscrupulous individuals seek the warm temperatures as well, in which they monitor the school and playground area where today's youth gather. It is strongly encouraged that children and young adults avoid contact with unfamiliar individuals who may ask for directions, attempt to provide gifts / money, or engage in **any** conversation. **"Stranger Danger" talks apply to everyone**, no matter the age or physical size of a person. The Bloomingdale Police Department also encourages that if an encounter with a suspicious person and/or vehicle occurs, notify our agency as soon as possible once safety has been established. Any questions or concerns regarding this information, please contact Officer Dawn Odoi at (630) 529-9868.

Have a wonderful Fall season!

CURRENT CASES BEING INVESTIGATED…

Burglary to Motor Vehicle
McDonald's   72 Stratford Square
A Bartlett man reported that sometime between 8:40 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2013, person(s) unknown entered his unlocked vehicle and removed sporting equipment. Approximate value of the loss: $250.00. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the parking lot at the time of the incident. No suspect information at this time.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle   300 Block of Woodside
A Bloomingdale man reported that sometime between 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15, and 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, person(s) unknown entered his unlocked vehicle and removed a wallet. Approximate value: $90.00. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the driveway.

Residential Burglary   100 Block of Michigan
A Bloomingdale woman reported that sometime during the overnight hours (Wednesday, July 17, 2013), person(s) unknown entered the garage and removed a purse and an electronic device. The approximate value of the loss is $1,500.00. No further information is available at this time.

Theft   200 Block of Regency
A Bloomingdale woman reported that sometime between 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2013, unknown person(s) removed the catalytic converter from her vehicle. The approximate value: unknown. Vehicle was parked and unattended in parking lot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Character Counts Coalition Celebration
Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
Old Town Park

Bloomingdale Police & Fire Departments – Open House
Saturday, October 26, 2013   10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Both the Bloomingdale Police Department and the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District will conduct building tours with a Halloween theme at their respective buildings:
Police – 201 S. Bloomingdale Road
Fire – 179 S. Bloomingdale Road
Activities and games will be provided by our Police, Fire and Park District personnel. Refreshments will be served.
Children are encouraged to wear their costumes for
"**Trick or Treating**"
Children under 10 yrs old need to be accompanied by adults
Please join us for this fun, family event!

Bloomingdale Library & Bloomingdale Park District are hosting a Halloween Party
Saturday, October 26, 2013   12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
At the Bloomingdale Library parking lot

Bloomingdale Library activities
Hay maze   Inflatable moonwalk   Games & prizes
Balloon artists   Face painters   Pictures available for $1.00
Free refreshments and candy
Library events require a ticket. Tickets are available day of the event between 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 2:30 p.m.
No entry into the tent after 2:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Park District activities
Sandy Candy   Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest
Petting Zoo   Entertainment
Free Family Event
TRICK OR TREAT HOURS WILL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 2013, FROM 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.