



# Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



FRANK GIAMMARESE  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BLOOMINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
201 SOUTH BLOOMINGDALE ROAD  
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108-1499

IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE  
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

(630) 529-9868  
[www.villageofbloomingtondale.org](http://www.villageofbloomingtondale.org)

## JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING.....



will be held Virtually / Live Streamed on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., from the Bloomingtondale Village Hall Council Room, featuring an Open Forum with Bloomingtondale Mavor Franco Coladipietro and Village

Administrator Peter Scalerà. Both will provide the current status and future developments for the Village. The public is encouraged to participate, but citizens will need to RSVP to Officer Dawn Odoi at (630) 529-9868 BY Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. To view the meeting via Live Stream (Internet), the access information will be given on the day of the meeting through an e-mail address once a person has registered (sent an RSVP). For more information or for any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Officer Odoi. Thank you!

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS.....

Neighborhood Watch Meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, brought together Director of Public Safety Frank Giammarese and the new Bloomingtondale Fire Chief Matthew Beyer. Although these Village Officials have been working together the past few months, this was Fire Chief Beyer's first experience with our Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch Open Forum. Director Giammarese, who is a veteran of the format, began the meeting by discussing the police staffing and acknowledging that there will be retirements in the next few months. A police testing will take place in May 2021, with applications available in April. As the public has dealt with COVID-19 virus, so has the Police and Village personnel. The Police Department continues to encourage the safe practice of hand washing / utilize sanitizer, mask wearing, reduce unnecessary contact by taking phone reports (if needed) and minimize gatherings (ex. Roll Call prior to shifts). Police Officers have been pulled from specialized assignments to ensure the patrol shifts are sufficiently covered. The Bloomingtondale Police Department participates with a number of multi-jurisdictional task force, including NIPAS (Northern Illinois Police Alarm System), the DuPage County Major Crime Task Force, and MERIT (Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team). Director Giammarese advised that our department assisted other agencies during the civil unrest issues during the summer months, in which police officers were deployed locally and into further suburbs when needed to maintain the peace. Intelligent information is continually gathered from State and Federal agencies so that our Village, as well as, our police department is aware and prepared. In general, criminal



incidents and traffic issues were lower than normal. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to shelter in place may have contributed to such reduced numbers. Director Giammarese advised that the priority continues to be the safety of our roadways and the residential areas. As Illinois looks towards a change in law enforcement training and police work, Bloomingtondale is ahead of such change with body cameras and our police officers in Crisis Intervention Training, due to the increase need for mental health awareness. With such training, de-escalation of a situation is beneficial to the subject and the safety of the officer. Things in society have become more complicated, but the police officers continue to face each test and adapt to the changes. The Bloomingtondale Police Department maintains a strong working relationship Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). NEDFYS strives to help with Crisis Intervention, Youth/Adult/Family Counseling, and Referrals to Food, Shelter, and Legal Services. NAMI DuPage's mission is to provide support, advocacy and education in order to improve the quality of life of individuals with mental illnesses and their families. NAMI offers Support Groups, Peer Counseling, Education Classes, Youth Programs, Recreation, and Supported Employment. Although, there have been some individuals whose cases are challenging, it is with continued effort and working together that progress can be made. In closing of his presentation, Director Giammarese advised that the department will continue with community programs, such as National Night Out Against Crime, Open House event, and fundraising for Illinois Special Olympics, but that things may look different – and be adjusted depending on how things are with the State concerning COVID- 19 virus and safe practice procedures.

Bloomingtondale Fire Chief Matt Beyer may be new to the Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District, but not to the area. Chief Beyer has been a Bloomingtondale resident for 25 years and he has been actively involved with the Bloomingtondale Baseball Softball Association. Prior to joining BFD, Chief Beyer served on the Downers Grove Fire Department for 33 years and now he looks forward to serving his home town. Chief Beyer wants to continue the established mission – to ensure the safety and well-being of the district by prompt and professional services in the event of fire, medical emergencies, disasters, or any other event which may threaten the public



welfare. In 2020, BFD handled 5000 calls for service, in which 1700 for Fire and 3300 for EMS. The Department has 39 personnel, 12 on each shift. All fire department personnel are cross-trained for Fire calls and EMS calls. There will be a new hiring list to fill 3 vacancies. BFD is part of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) and the Illinois Fire Alliance. Bloomington Fire Protection District is part of the "Alliance", to consolidate resources with other fire agencies. By dropping the borders, the fire agencies in the Alliance not only help one another, but they are all operating under the same procedures – "same playbook", in which other fire agencies are seeking to follow this example. In addition to training in Fire Investigation, Medical, handling Hazardous Material, (seen more often than before requiring special suits & continuous training), Water Rescue/Dive Team, Tactical Rescue, the fire personnel is training military style medicine to handle injured officers, by-standers and the suspect(s) involved in shooting incidents. Chief Beyer discussed **SMART 9-1-1** and encourage the public to register to enable emergency personnel to quickly access a person's past/current medical conditions and medication list in which to administer immediate help. Use of the **File of Life packets** (mini medical files that are placed on the refrigerator door) helpful as well. Fire personnel continue the message of getting and maintaining carbon monoxide detectors, as well as, smoke detectors AND to close bedroom doors before going to sleep to help keep carbon monoxide and smoke out of the room if an incident occurs. The Bloomington Fire Protection District has an established **Residential Knox Box Loan Program** for the residents of the District. The objectives of the program are to expedite the paramedics reaching the patient and to minimize or eliminate damage to property by forcible entry. The Knox box is a secure steel box in which residents can place the key to their home for rapid access by fire department crews. These boxes can only be opened by a single key which is securely locked on fire apparatus and ambulances within the Bloomington Fire Protection District. Residents meeting the following criteria are eligible for the program: (1) The loaner residential Knox box can only be used for a Bloomington Fire Protection District resident living within the district boundaries; (2) An individual with an existing medical or physical condition which could render him/her unable to open a locked door in an emergency situation. The department has a limited supply of residential Knox boxes available for this program. To obtain a Knox box, please contact Administration at 630-894-9080 weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Residential Loaner Knox Box is available as a one-year loan subject to renewal, if necessary. The program requires a cash/check security deposit of \$30.00 which will be returned when the box is returned to the Fire District. The Residential Loaner Knox Box remains the property of the Bloomington Fire District and is to be returned to the Bloomington Fire District when the condition of the individual no longer warrants the use of the box. Fire Chief Beyer reminded residents that a person's medical condition dictates transportation to the hospital, in which Glen Oaks Hospital is the closest hospital (3.4 miles). After checking with hospital personnel, if the hospital is comfortable with an alternative location, then transport to another hospital is do-able. Chief Beyer advised that the BFD Personnel's response has been modified due to COVID-19 virus, in which Pre-Screening Questions are asked, and if possible, to meet BFD at the doorway. Chief Beyer advised that those residents with a rural address (ie. 22W123 Street) may obtain a **reflective Rural Address Sign** that clearly identifies the house

address number that helps emergency personnel quickly respond to the proper home.

The audience conveyed their appreciation for the service given by Director of Public Safety Frank Giammarese and Fire Chief Beyer to lead Bloomington's First Responders. Officer Odoi publicly thanked these officials for taking the time to present and answer questions from our citizens.

### **SAFETY REMINDERS:**



Even during the winter months, there are many people who will seek to enjoy the outdoors and escape 'cabin fever'.

Pedestrian safety is a Village priority.

- ❖ Pedestrians should use the crosswalk when available and look both ways when entering the crosswalk.
- ❖ Pedestrians should wear light colored or reflective clothing when going out for a walk after dark.
- ❖ Drivers stopping for a traffic signal or stop sign should stop before the crosswalk pavement marking.
- ❖ Drivers should look both ways before driving through a crosswalk.

Also, it is encouraged to keep Village sidewalks clear. **Please** be considerate of neighbors, children, dog walkers, bicyclists, and any other travelers who wish to use the public sidewalks. Parking a vehicle over a sidewalk can be a hazard to those who use it daily and forces pedestrians to walk or ride their bike out into the street to maneuver around the vehicle - dangerous due to oncoming traffic. While many families have numerous vehicles and not enough parking space, it is still important to keep the sidewalks clear to comply with Village code and avoid a \$25.00 fine. The ordinance prohibits vehicles from blocking the use of a sidewalk during all hours of the day. Please obey this ordinance to respect the rights of pedestrians. Any questions or comments regarding this information please contact Officer Dawn Odoi of the Bloomington Police Department at (630) 529-9868.

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

**Theft Turtle Wax – 252 S. Gary Avenue**  
A 53 year old Carol Stream man reported that an unknown person(s) removed his wallet from his vehicle as it went through the car wash process. No further information at this time.



**Theft 228 Glen Ellyn Road / 261 E. Lake Street / 255 E. Lake Street**  
During the time frame of December 31, 2020, and January 10, 2021, catalytic converters have been removed from vehicles while parked in the parking lots of the above locations. The vehicles were parked and unattended when the incidents occurred. The approximate value of the loss is unknown. No further information at this time.

**Theft Wilshire Towers – 205 Regency Drive**  
A 37 year old Bloomington woman reported that sometime between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., unknown person(s) removed a package that was delivered outside her door. No further information is available at this time.

**Remember:** With Spring around the corner and warmer temperature – Report all suspicious person(s) and vehicles in your neighborhood, including unregistered solicitors, repair services, and those seeking assistance. Call 9-1-1. ☺