



Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 17th, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Room. Many citizens acquire the news through television, radio and Internet reports, in which they become concerned over criminal activity. Due to these valid concerns and how it relates to our area, the Bloomingtondale Police Department Criminal Investigations / Youth Division will be the focus of our meeting. Detectives will provide an overview of their position in the department. They will also address the current criminal activity in Bloomingtondale, (including the surrounding area) and clarify any information pertaining to recent issues in the residential neighborhoods. Refreshments will be provided. Please join us and encourage others to attend, in which to receive local information, safety tips and be involved in a networking opportunity to enhance safety in Bloomingtondale.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

To begin the new year without the Open Forum format would seem out of the ordinary. So, the Neighborhood Watch General Meeting on Wednesday, January 20th, 2010, featured Village Officials who continued the established tradition. Most of the guest speakers were familiar with the Open Forum and they return each year because of the unique opportunity to meet with residents. Village Trustee Jim Gebis, Police Deputy Chief Giammarese (promoted Chief ó February 22 2010), Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District Chief Dave Christensen and Director of Village Services Michael Marchi came prepared to update the public with their agency's activities, answer any questions or address any concerns of the residents and give a sense of the State of Bloomingtondale.

As a veteran of the Open Forum format, the evening began with Fire Chief Dave Christensen. Fire Chief Christensen appreciated the opportunity, as always, to address the audience and provide the latest news with the fire department. The Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District covers not only Bloomingtondale, but also areas of Itasca, Medinah, Addison, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park, and Keeneyville. There are 3 full-time stations with 62 employees. Chief Christensen advised that there have been two retirements, but they have replaced the personnel staffing. Chief Christensen provided an overview of the Rescue Dive Unit, Dive Team, Technical

Rescue Team and the Hazmat Response Team. Chief Christensen noted a 3% reduction in calls, to 4,200 calls for 2009. Although there has been an increase to EMS calls, there has also been an increase in saves from the paramedic area. Chief Christensen recognized that the public has played a role and helped some situations reference the revised CPR standards (re: citizens providing chest thrusts without giving a breath to the subject). Chief Christensen explained ambulance transportation procedures, which still is a concern for some residents. State Law requires that an individual who needs medical attention should be transported to the nearest hospital. Although citizens may not understand or agree, emergency personnel cannot pass one hospital to travel to another hospital. Emergency personnel obtain essential information, assess the individual's condition and level of consciousness. Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District transports to Level 2 Trauma Centers (Glen Oaks Hospital, Central DuPage Hospital and Alexian Brothers Medical Center), as well as, Level 1 Trauma Centers (Good Samaritan Hospital and Loyola University Medical Center). Chief Christensen assured the audience that the agency will continue to provide the highest standards for its citizens and he appreciated the support received from the Village.



Trustee Jim Gebis was new to the Open Forum, but is well-established as a resident and a Trustee (17 years). Trustee Gebis spoke about the financial state of Bloomingtondale, in which he advised that holdings are down and that our Village is facing the same economic challenges as many other towns, mainly due to the loss in sales income tax revenue. Trustee Gebis advised that Bloomingtondale does not have a lot of debt, but there has been a need to tap into the reserve fund. The Village has been re-evaluating expenditures in every department and has offered early buy-out / early retirement programs for employees who qualify. Trustee Gebis stated that the Village strives to maintain services, but that certain projects may be delayed in the process. On a brighter note, Trustee Gebis spoke about the new businesses in town: Orchid and Bally Doyle Irish Pub restaurants (Stratford Square Mall), Five Guys, Dino's Café, CVS Pharmacy and Discount Theaters. Legends restaurant and Anyways restaurant will be opening soon. Trustee Gebis also advised that Wal-mart will be expanding westward into the strip mall area and become a

Super Wal-mart. Further expansion is taking place with Pittman, Now Foods and Jasper Meats. Trustee Gebis stated that the Village will keep residents and businesses posted as the year continues.

With 25 years of service, Director of Village Services Mike Marchi stepped up to address not only the audience, but his fellow residents. Director Marchi advised that Village Services has four divisions (Public Works, Utilities, Engineering, and Building & Zoning) with 53 employees. During this winter season, it is estimated that the area has received 50 inches of snow. Director Marchi advised the



audience that the clearance priority remains with the intersections, hills and curbs, before addressing the side streets. These snow removal procedures are not a static plan, but a dynamic plan and the Village does not compromise a motorist's safety. The Village was able to secure salt (\$75.00 - \$77.00/ton as opposed to \$120.00/ton last year) and it looks promising to finish the rest of the season with little to no problems. The public's understanding and patience of snow removal procedures is truly appreciated. Director Marchi works between economics and ecology aspects regarding the needs of the Village. Maintenance is focused on cost effectiveness. Director Marchi advised that the Village will continue with the Branch Collection Program, which operates on three collections a year (April, July, October), since the contractor has maintained the price for the service. The mulch from these collections are available to the public on a first come, first serve basis and those interested should check with the public works division prior to the collections. Director Marchi stated that due to the Economy Recovery Act, there will be resurfacing work on Schick Road (westward). The cost of the program is 1.33 million dollars, in which \$15,000.00 will be paid by the Village. Regarding the sewage system and treatment plant, Phase 1 is completed, in which the Village is preparing for Phase 2. **Phase 2B**, estimated at \$7.540 million, consists primarily of dry weather flow system expansion and addressing pending treatment requirements to satisfy NPDES effluent standards and decrease energy consumption. The work is targeted for construction in 2010-2012. The Village is applying to secure funding pursuant to the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or in the form of a loan from the IEPA Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund**. Director Marchi answered the audience's questions during the meeting and generously gave his time after the meeting to address individual concerns.



The Open Forum panel's last speaker was Deputy Chief Frank Giammarese. Another resident of Bloomington, Deputy Chief Giammarese warmly greeted the audience and thanked them for their continued support of our efforts. Communicating with the public continues as a high priority with the police department and Village wide. Programs, such as Code RED Emergency Notification System and the Village's E-news, provide the latest information regarding our area. Registration for these programs are posted on the Village website. D/C Giammarese encouraged the residents to sign up for Code RED so that they can receive high speed emergency notification in case of a situation that requires immediate action (such as a water boil

notice, gas leak, missing child, etc.). The system is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour. Bloomington residences listed in the white pages may be listed in the existing CodeRED database, but they should contact the police department to ensure that they are in the system. A resident with a non-published or unlisted phone number or those that would be interested in adding a cellular phone number as a back-up notification are encouraged to register. Regarding crime activity, D/C Giammarese advised that we have not seen a spike or dramatic increase in crime, but it has remained consistent. He also clarified some information that had been circulating in the community regarding some residential burglaries. D/C Giammarese further advised the audience that con artists working repair scams (to possibly enter a home) are a continuous problem for not only seniors but for all citizens. It is encouraged that all residents be proactive in home security measures (listed below), in which to harden the target of your home.

I want to extend my sincere Thanks to Trustee Gebis, Director Marchi, Fire Chief Christensen and Deputy Chief Giammarese for taking the time and providing our residents with essential information about the Village activities.

CURRENT CASES BEING INVESTIGATED...

Theft Michael's (402 W. Army Trail Road)

 A Wheaton woman reported that sometime between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2010, person(s) unknown removed her wallet from her purse. The woman was distracted by a female subject, in which another subject may have removed her leather wallet (and its contents) from her purse. The approximate cost of the loss is valued at \$75.00. Nothing further at this time.

Theft Wal-Mart (314 W. Army Trail Road)

A Bloomington woman reported that between 3:30 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, person(s) unknown removed her black colored vinyl shoulder bag type purse and its contents from the shopping cart while she was loading her groceries. The approximate cost of the loss is \$80.00. No suspect information at this time.

SAFE REMINDERS:

- ❖ Keep doors and windows closed and locked at all times, including doors that connect from the garage to the home.
- ❖ Utilize outside light and motion light detectors around your home.
- ❖ Utilize timers to turn lights, radio(s) or television(s) on and off at appropriate times in different areas of your home. You may want to program your television or radio to talk show channels that sound like real conversations.
- ❖ Properly lock your unattended vehicles at all times, including in your driveway.
- ❖ Remove all personal / valuable items from unattended vehicles, including GPS devices.
- ❖ Report all suspicious person(s) and vehicles in your neighborhood.

Any questions or comments regarding this information please contact Officer Dawn Odoi of the Bloomington Police Department at (630) 529-9868.