



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

MAY / JUNE 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...

Our next meeting is set for **Wednesday, July 20th, 2011,**
at 7:30 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Room.

The scheduled speaker is Rebecca Fyffe the Deputy Director of Policy and Development for the Wildlife Control Policy Institute. She will be joined by expert State-certified biologists, Thom Skibbe and Vito Brancato with ABC Wildlife Control and Prevention in Arlington Heights. They will share their experience in helping homeowners protect their homes and properties from animal damage and invasion.



According to a study by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 58 percent of Chicagoland homeowners experienced wildlife problems in the past year, with Canadian Geese, racoons, squirrels, rabbits, and skunks topping the list of culprits. Since most people equate abundant wildlife populations with rural or forested areas, many Bloomingtondale residents may be surprised to learn that racoons are actually more common in our Chicago metro area than any other part of the state.

Here is just a brief list of recommendations by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that will be discussed:

- Do not encourage racoons by feeding them.
- Keep pet food and watering dishes indoors especially at night.
- Keep trash containers in your garage until pick-up day.
- Containers stored outside should be made of metal or durable plastic and kept upright in a frame.
- Install commercial chimney caps before animals move in.
- Trim tree branches that provide squirrels and racoons easy access to your roof.

Other topics will include:

- Supporting bat conservation.
- Mitigating the rabies threat posed by bats.
- What you need to know to protect your pets before and after wildlife encounters.
- Once and for all; the BEST way to remove skunk odor.

This valuable discussion has been offered at many notable institutions including the Field Museum; the Environmental

Protection Agency; the Chicago Botanic Garden and many other community venues.

If you care for the wildlife around us, this is one meeting you will not want to miss. Maybe we can even ask Rebecca her secrets to morel mushroom hunting.

Refreshments for the meeting will be provided. Hope to see you there!



Mark your calendars!

The following dates have been scheduled for the 2011 Neighborhood Watch

General Meetings:

- August 2nd (National Night Out) Bloomingtondale Park District
- September 21st
- November 16th

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

Our third Neighborhood Watch general meeting of the year took place on Wednesday, May 18th, 2011 at the Village Hall. There were approx. 32 residents in attendance at this meeting. Chief Giammarese and Deputy Chief Sater discussed several recent crimes that have occurred in Bloomingtondale.



The one case that has brought about the most media attention has been the fraudulent use of debit cards at several area Michaels stores. The Bloomingtondale Police Department alone has received over 30 complaints in reference to this crime. Complainant's debit card numbers and pin numbers had been compromised without the knowledge of the complainants. Our own Detective Jeff Hill and the Libertyville Police Department Investigations Unit were able to piece together that the common denominator was Michaels Arts and Craft stores. It appears that fraudulent look-alike debit card readers were placed at various Michaels stores allowing the offenders to ascertain card and pin numbers. Once that information was obtained, fraudulent ATM withdrawals were made usually around \$500.00 from the west coast. The United States Secret Service is now the lead investigatory agency in reference to the above scam.



Vehicle burglaries are also on the rise now that the weather has warmed up. Several of these car burglaries had windows shattered to gain entry and radar detectors were taken that were left in plain view. Most vehicle burglaries are occurring in the overnight hours. Some vehicles were left unlocked and allowed easy access to burglars. There was one case in which a 2011 Honda had all four tires and rims taken and was sitting on landscape blocks.

Also mentioned was a couple vehicle thefts. One of which involved what the victim thought was a legitimate sale of his 1970 Dodge for seventy thousand dollars only to find out that the cashiers check given to him for payment was fraudulent. This case was eventually solved; an offender was arrested, the vehicle was located and returned to the owner intact.

There have also been several reported theft of mislaid property complaints. At a beauty supply shop in Springbrook shopping center, a woman left her wallet and within a very short time, two large purchases were made on one of her credit cards as well as a large withdrawal from her bank account.

At a kiosk in the Stratford Square mall, a man left his My Touch 4G cellular phone on a counter and walked away for approximately one minute. When he returned the phone was missing. The same occurred to a man who left his Blackberry phone in a mens restroom at the mall only to return to find it missing.

A woman reported that while she was eating at the Food Court at Stratford Square Mall, an unknown person removed her wallet from her purse and made several fraudulent charges on her credit cards.

A final case that was discussed was the attempted armed robbery that occurred in front of the TJ Maxx store on April 7th at 12:45 pm. A male, late teen subject attempted to take a purse from a 67-year-old female. The female did not let go of the purse and was pushed to the ground. The offender was arrested later in the day.

Our guest speaker was Gene Beckler, a sales representative from ADT Alarm Systems. He provided our residents with a general background of his company and explained how some of the more popular alarm systems worked. He answered many questions and urged anyone that is interested in having an alarm system installed to contact him for a home security survey.

As of May 2011, there are 81 Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. There was one new addition on Hillndale and there will soon be another in the Stratford Lakes subdivision. Officer Giertz has completed a pin map that documents where area block captains are located. This pin map assists us visually by determining which areas we need to work on for future block captains. You may review the map either at the police department or by attending one of our Neighborhood Watch Meetings.

CURRENT CASES



Aggravated Battery – On May 9th, a 26-year-old male injured his father by slashing him across the chest with a knife. This incident occurred in the 200 block of Regency Dr. The son fled the scene on foot and was arrested the next morning.

Attempt Residential Burglary and Criminal Damage to property.

On May 20th, at 11:04 am officers responded to the 2900 block of Westminster for a residential burglary in progress. A subject had attempted to forcibly kick in the front door to the residence. The homeowner was inside the residence and called the police. The subject had fled in his vehicle and was stopped and arrested on Lake St. at Gary Ave.

Theft- On May 23rd at 2:00 p.m. a male black subject 25 to 35 years of age 5'10" to 6'0" 200 lbs. with short braided/spiked hair removed an autographed Michael Jordan jersey that was framed and hanging on a south wall of the Half Price Book store. The offender took the frame to restroom, shattered the glass, removed the jersey, concealed it under his shirt and exited the store. The value of the jersey was \$3000.00.

Residential Burglary

Detectives are investigating a residential burglary that occurred on the 300 of block of Wentworth Cir. (Bloomfield Club) The burglary occurred sometime between 4:00 p.m. on June 7th and 4:00 p.m. on June 8th. Forced entry was gained by breaking out a small window next to the front door, which allowed the offender to simply reach in and unlock the front door. The home did not have an alarm system.. The master bedroom had dresser drawers tossed about the floor. As of this writing, the only items taken were a couple pieces of clothing.

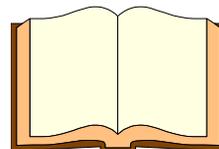
Note: Please call the police department if you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood. As with the previous newsletter, there are still many "crews" that are committing ruse type scams to enter homes. These scams are occurring in nearby surrounding towns.

Signs

The police department has ordered new Neighborhood Watch street signs. If you have a suggestion for the placement of a sign, or would like a sign replaced, please call Deputy Chief Randy Sater at 630-529-9868.



Statistics: Jan. 01, 2011 -- June 09, 2011



Service Calls- 6979
Accident Reports-518
Case Reports-1169
DUI Arrests-70
Traffic Stops-5146