



# Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



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IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE  
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

(630) 529-9868

[www.villageofbloomingtondale.org](http://www.villageofbloomingtondale.org)

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016**

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...** **The Open Forum with Village Officials will** **be on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at** **7:00 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Room.**



Representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the Village Services Department will each present a "State of Bloomingtondale" address as they summarize the current status and future developments for each agency. The annual "Open Forum" meeting remains an established tradition for the Bloomingtondale citizens as the Village continues to grow and change. The public is encouraged to attend and bring any questions or concerns to this distinctive and insightful evening. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided.

**Hope to see you there!**



### **2017 Neighborhood Watch Meetings:**

January 11 <sup>th</sup>	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	September 13 <sup>th</sup>
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	November 8 <sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – National Night Out Against Crime

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...**

The September Neighborhood Watch Meeting gave the opportunity to address topics concerning emergency services: **Smart911** and the **9-1-1 Dispatch Center**.

Sarah Hoban is the DuPage Smart911 Coordinator, in which DuPage County has participated in Smart911 for the past 5 years. Smart911 information helps first responders do their jobs faster, in which the service saves time and saves lives. It is a confidential service that allows you to create a profile that is activated when you dial 9-1-1. The electronic safety profile provides essential household information about family members, home, pets, and vehicles. The user controls what information is in the profile and it can be updated or changed at any time. The information provided is available only to emergency responders during a 911 call. The profile may contain the following: family members' ages, photos, and physical descriptions; information about your home, including address, utility shutoff valves and keyholder info; medical information such as medications, medical conditions, or disabilities; special considerations, like language restrictions, restraining orders or rescue notes.

Anyone who lives, works or visits DuPage County can create a profile. It's free and completely confidential –

available to emergency responders during a 911 call. The service can be especially valuable to households with young children, senior citizens, or anyone with a physical or cognitive disability. Visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) to create a profile. The step-by-step online process lets you decide which information you want to include on your profile – and you can update or change your profile at any time.

Telecommunicator Lauren Vanderploeg from AC/DC (Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center) provided an excellent insight into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center that serves the Bloomingtondale. To give the audience a visual perspective, Lauren displayed a photo of the dispatch center which showed each dispatcher in control of 6–large computer screens, 3–keyboards, and 4–mice. Lauren also demonstrated the importance of communication lines by playing the "telephone game" (usually played by children). Lauren gave an audience member a message about a car accident / crash and watched as the message traveled from one person's ear to the next. When the last participant told the message to the audience, there was only 1-2 correct points to the message (it did involve 2-vehicles and 1-street name was correct). 9-1-1 dispatchers ask for vital information and they may interrupt the caller to be efficient during the emergency call. The dispatcher needs to get the information so that the police officers have clear and concise / necessary information to respond to the emergency (example: inquire about injuries, weapons, location of subjects or vehicles, etc.). AC/DC now serves 7 communities: Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingtondale, DuPage County Forest Preserve, Glendale Heights, Itasca, and Wood Dale. They are a close knit group of 26 certified dispatchers who work on rotating shifts and are prepared to work for each town that the center serves. A new building is being constructed so that AC/DC can serve the growing needs for police and fire agencies as well as be a back-up service for DuComm.

9-1-1 calls are received through landlines, cellular phones, and voice over Internet (ex. Vonage). Landlines usually have name, address, phone number info displayed on 9-1-1 calls which is entered by the phone company. **But** this information may be incorrect – this is the reason the dispatcher verifies info with the caller. Calls from cellular phones (at this time) go to DuPage County to determine the call information and then transfer the correct town. There are two phases to obtain the location: 1-cell tower known; 2-latitude and longitude. Dispatching through AC/DC has worked out well for the police officers and the community.

In November, Sean Luster (Head of Computer Services for Bloomingdale Library) addressed **Technology Safety** for the Neighborhood Watch Meeting. Similar to other crime prevention/safety related information, individuals need to have a continual awareness of possible online threats to computer safety and privacy issues. General computer safety begins with strong passwords involving capital letters, lower case letters, numbers, and possible symbols, if allowed. The longer the password, the better. If you must leave your laptop in public for any amount of time, lock it with **ctl+alt+del**. Keep your operating system and applications updated. By default, Windows will update itself automatically. Windows Updates typically happen on the second Tuesday of the month, unless there's an urgent security update to a specific threat. For Macs, the App Store icon will have a number on it, or go to **Apple > Software Update**. Have a real-time Anti-virus program installed AND running. Make sure Windows Firewall is turned on. Backup EVERYTHING. When identifying secure websites, there are a few things that will indicate whether or not you have a secure connection. There will be a padlock in the URL field. Clicking on the padlock will bring up the certificate information. The address starts with "https:" indicating that it uses the SSL or Secure Sockets Layer protocol which encrypts communication. It also indicates that the website is certified to be who they claim to be. FYI – Just because a website doesn't use SSL or isn't certified doesn't mean it isn't a legitimate website, it just means the data you transmit won't be secure. There are threats to your system to keep in mind – Malware: may be installed when you accept something unknown; Spyware: advertise and monitor your computer traffic; and Virus: dangerous, illegal, attacking mainly workplace computers. When shopping online, it is recommended to use a credit card instead of debit card and don't give any information that they don't need for the purchase. For more technology safety information or to further your technology usage, the Bloomingdale Library offers classes throughout the year which are highly recommended by those who have attended.

Other events that took place during the year was the annual Bloomingdale Police Department's & Fire Department's Open House event that coincided with the Bloomingdale Library's and Bloomingdale Park District's Halloween Party. Children and their families took part in the activities, games, and displays that were offered. Always a fun family event.

The annual "Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops" event is always a highlight for the Bloomingdale Police Officers of the Bloomingdale Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #175. Children and their families who are in need were able to celebrate Christmas with the generous contributions from the Bloomingdale Meijer's store, CIACO (Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization), Joe Salerno / Salerno's Rosedale Chapels, Bloomingdale Township Republican Party, John Dabrowski and other private donors.

The Bloomingdale Police Department wants to recognize and express our sincere gratitude to the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. Thank you for providing a line of communication between your neighborhoods and emergency agencies. Also, your time and efforts are truly appreciated when given to our community events (Senior Day Fair, National Night Out Against Crime, September Fest parade, Open House) throughout the year.

These events are successful because of citizens' contributions. **We look forward to working with all in the new year of 2017!!**



### **WINTER DRIVING TIPS:**

- Plan ahead – route, time of day, traffic, weather forecasts. Allow extra time for travel.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Keep clean windshield, all windows, headlights, brake lights, and license plate area, especially when snow falls.
- Keep your car's headlights on low beam. This provides better visibility particularly in fog or snow.
- Use turn signals.
- Watch the car in front of you for signs of trouble. Keep extra space between cars. Anticipate and prepare for slippery roads or other dangers.
- If you travel below the posted speed limit, please stay in the far right lane to avoid any speeding vehicles.
- If you miss an exit or street, go to the next exit / street. **Do not cause an accident in a last minute maneuver;** drivers behind can only do so much to avoid you.
- If you need to slow down or stop on a slick road, apply the brakes firmly and steadily, but not so firmly that they lock up. As you begin to slow, gently ease up on the brakes. Do not pump the brakes.
- If you skid, don't panic. Take your foot off the brake and then steer in the direction of the skid. Once the car regains traction, you can straighten the wheel.
- For emergency vehicles, please slow down and move to the right lanes, if possible. Make sure that all emergency vehicles have passed before resuming driving.
- If you have an accident, stay in your vehicle and always contact the police.

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

#### **Burglary to Motor Vehicle**

**Speedway Gas Station  
346 W. Army Trail Road**

A Carol Stream man reported that at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016, person(s) unknown removed his wallet from his unlocked vehicle. The approximate value of the loss is unknown. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the parking lot at the time of the incident. No further information at this time.



#### **Burglary to Motor Vehicle**

**Shell Gas Station  
250 E. Army Trail Road**

A Elgin woman reported that at 6:13 a.m. on Sunday, September 18, 2016, person(s) unknown entered her vehicle and removed her purse. The approximate value of the loss is unknown. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the parking lot at the time of the incident. No further information.

#### **Criminal Trespass to Vehicle**

**200 Block of Brighton**

A Chicago man reported that at 12:02 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, person(s) unknown entered his vehicle and sat in the driver's seat. When approached, the man fled the area in an unknown direction. No further information is available at this time.