



# Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE  
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

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**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...**  
**will be Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Room.** The annual Open Forum with Village Officials provides a wonderful opportunity for citizens to meet/greet and get an up-to-date insight into the "State of Bloomingtondale". Refreshments will be provided. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors.



Hope to see you there!

**2018 Neighborhood Watch Meetings:**

January 10 <sup>th</sup>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	September 12 <sup>th</sup>
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	November 14 <sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – National Night Out Against Crime

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...**  
**September Meeting** - Detective Jeff Hill maintains the Sex Offender Registration for the Bloomingtondale Police Department, in which he provided an insight into such an assignment. For the safety of the public, The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (S.O.R.N.A.) / Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act was created. It requires sex offenders to register and keep their registration current in each jurisdiction in which they reside, are employed, or attend school. A sex offender must also initially register in the jurisdiction in which they were convicted, if it is different from the jurisdiction of residence. Length of registration requirements vary from State to State. In Illinois, the length of registration is as follows: 10 yrs. from the date released from prison or date of conviction OR register for Life from the date released from prison or date of conviction. A registered sex offender is a person, male or female, who has been convicted of a crime involving a sexual act where the federal, state, or local laws require them to be placed on the Sexual Offender Registry after they have served their criminal sentences or when they have been released on parole. These acts can range anywhere from misdemeanors to felonies, and the definition of a sex crime can differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Bloomingtondale currently has eight subjects that register either yearly or quarterly. Anyone can locate the sex offender registrants in their area by checking – <http://www.isp.state.il.us> The Illinois Compiled Statutes (730 ILCS 152/115 (a) and (b)) mandate that the Illinois State Police ("ISP") establish and maintain a statewide Sex Offender Database, accessible on the

Internet, identifying persons who have been convicted of certain sex offenses and/or crimes against children and must register as a Sex Offender. Persons required to register as Sex Offenders are persons who have been charged of an offense listed in Illinois Compiled Statutes 730 ILCS 150/2(B) and 730 ILCS 150/2(C) when such charge results in one of the following: (a) A conviction for the commission of the offense or attempt to commit the offense, (b) A finding of not guilty by reason of insanity of committing the offense or attempting to commit the offense, or (c) A finding not resulting in an acquittal at a hearing for the alleged commission or attempted commission of the offense. There are limits to where the registrant can live: 1- cannot live within 500'-0" of a School; 2- cannot live within 500'-0" of a Daycare; 3- cannot live within 500'-0" of a Park. There are guidelines that a sex offender registrant must follow regarding their registration (which is determined by their offender status). Also, the sex offender is monitored during holidays which may focus on children, such as Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. On Halloween, sex offenders are not allowed to meet with "trick-or-treaters". During the listed holidays, Sex Offenders are not allowed to pose in any costumes, ie. Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. The public can assist the police department and the community by being alert and aware in your neighborhoods about any suspicious activity. If something does not seem right, then please call as soon as possible. Project Safe Childhood combats the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program develops effective responses to the online enticement of children by sexual predators, child exploitation, child obscenity and pornography cases. Please be aware of unusual activity in public places, especially where children gather. For example, individuals who may take photographs or video of children or the viewing of child pornography in public places, such as library computers.  
**November Meeting** – Officer Dawn Odoi arranged for the Citizen Police Academy class to join the Neighborhood Watch Meeting to understand crime prevention efforts and to promote the positive lines of communication between the police department and the community members. Due to recent residential and ruse burglaries, the focus of the presentation was on the basics of home and personal safety. Doors and

windows of a home should be closed and locked at all times, **even** when a person is home. Please do not give others the opportunity to access your home, without your knowledge and/or permission. Criminals study the habits of a neighborhood to look for easy targets. They will watch for unlocked doors to a vehicle in your driveway, or an open garage door that gives entry to the home, or for an opportunity of an open window in the front of a home while the residents work in the backyard. Even when visitors come to your door (by knocking on the door or ringing the doorbell), you do not have to answer the door **or** if you choose to answer the door, you can have a conversation through the closed/locked door – keeping the safety barrier between you and the other person. If anyone tries to make entry or refuses to leave after your request, call 9-1-1 immediately. **Bottom line – If someone contacts you, then they want something from you – be attentive and prepared.** Reference the Ruse Burglaries, the visitors to the homeowners diverted the attention by claiming to be interested in buying the home across the street and by advising that water testing was being done in the community. **ATTENTION:** Due to the recent criminal activity as described above and a need to enhance our communication, the Police Department is reaching out to our senior citizen population. A meeting with the Director of Public Safety, Frank Giammarese and Officer Dawn Odoi will take place Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Village Hall Council Room. Senior Citizens and Caregivers are encouraged to attend.

#### **SAFETY INFORMATION:**

##### **Be Alert!**

The holiday season is upon us and many feel charitable toward others this time of the year. Although you may want to spread the “good feelings” to those in need, the public should be aware of suspicious activities that may occur around commercial areas of our town. In the past, individuals have approached citizens and asked them for money to purchase gasoline for their vehicles or for other needs. There may be claims that the individual’s car ran out of gas and they have no other way to get back home, yet they may have a friend in a vehicle nearby. The ruse has taken place in front of business entrance ways and in the parking lots as citizens are entering, exiting, or sitting inside their vehicle. Incidents can occur near areas like Wal-Mart, the Springbrook shopping area (Lake Street) and Stratford Square Mall. These individuals have asked citizens for money ranging from \$4.00 - \$10.00 to help their cause. Some have been quite persistent in their request for financial help.

The Bloomingdale Police Department strongly discourages citizens from getting involved with such a matter and to notify the police department if someone needs assistance. Although, many want to lend a hand to their fellow citizen, it would be better to play it safe **and** get help for the situation. There are unscrupulous individuals who will say or do anything for a buck. **Note:** Donations to any charity/organization should be verified as legitimate worthwhile causes and their donation procedures fully explained.

Please be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times and contact store personnel, security officers and/or local police departments regarding any **and** all suspicious persons and activity.

#### **Top 10 Ways To Protect Your Personal Information From Being Misused**

**Review your credit report.** You are entitled to a free credit report every 12 months from each of the three major consumer reporting companies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). You can request a copy from [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com)

**Consider a security freeze.** A security freeze or credit freeze on your credit report restricts access to your credit file. Creditors typically won’t offer you credit if they can’t access your credit reporting file, so a freeze prevents you and others from opening new accounts in your name. In almost all states, a freeze lasts until you remove it. In some states, it expires after seven years.

**Set up a fraud alert.** Fraud alerts require that a financial institution verifies your identity before opening a new account, issuing an additional card, or increasing the credit limit on an existing account. A fraud alert won’t prevent lenders from opening new accounts in your name, but it will require that the lenders take additional identification verification steps to make sure that you’re making the request. An initial fraud alert only lasts for 90 days, so you may want to watch for when to renew it. You can also set up an extended alert for identity theft victims, which is good for seven years.

**Read your credit card and bank statements carefully.** Look closely for charges you did not make. Even a small charge can be a danger sign. Thieves sometimes will take a small amount from your checking account and then return to take much more if the small debit goes unnoticed.

**Don’t ignore bills from people you don’t know.** A bill on an account you don’t recognize may be an indication that someone else has opened an account in your name. Contact the creditor to find out.

**Shred any documents with personal or sensitive information.** Be sure to keep hard copies of financial information in a safe place and be sure to shred them before getting rid of them.

**Change your passwords** for all of your financial accounts and consider changing the passwords for your other accounts as well. Be sure to create strong passwords and do not use the same password for all accounts. Don’t use information such as addresses and birthdays in your passwords. For more tips on how to create strong passwords read more on the [Federal Trade Commission’s \(FTC\) blog](#).

**File your taxes as soon as you can.** A scammer can use your Social Security number to get a tax refund. You can try to prevent a scammer from using your tax information to file and steal your tax refund by making sure you file before they do. Be sure not to ignore any official letters from the IRS and reply as soon as possible. The IRS will contact you by mail; don’t provide any information or account numbers in response to calls or emails.

**Active duty service members are eligible for additional protections,** and should also monitor their credit carefully. Learn more about what you can do if you’re currently serving at home or abroad.

**If you are the parent or guardian of a minor** and you think your child’s information has been comprised, there are some steps from the FTC you can take to protect their stolen information from fraudulent use. If you think you or your child’s identity has already been stolen, you can follow checklists and additional steps provided by the FTC to begin recovering from a case of identity theft.