



Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



FRANK GIAMMARESE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BLOOMINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
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BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108-1499

IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

(630) 529-9868

www.villageofbloomingtondale.org

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...

Next meeting is on Wednesday, March 14th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Room and will feature our K-9 Unit – Officer Levi McGhee and “Kane” the police department dog. Officer McGhee will inform the audience about their on-going training, their on-duty experiences, and Kane will demonstrate his skills. The Bloomingtondale Police Department continues to be proud of its first official K-9 unit and the N/W meeting is a great opportunity for citizens to see this specialized component of the police department. Refreshments will be served.



Hope you can attend and look forward to seeing you there!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

The January Neighborhood Watch General Meeting would not be the same unless the Village Officials were present to provide the up-to-date information on Village happenings. And the wonderful turnout, despite the winter weather conditions, showed why this meeting is popular among the citizens. **Director of Public Safety Frank Giammarese** began the meeting by clarifying the new title and job description. Director Giammarese provided an overview of the department personnel and the recent criminal activity, in particular the ‘ruse burglaries’. These types of burglaries are mostly done against senior citizens, as to confuse the citizen and then sneak inside their home to steal money and/or jewelry. The offenders usually pretend to work for the Village, a utility company, or as a repairman/handyman. By the time the resident is suspicious, the offenders are out the door and driving away. The important thing to remember is – do not open the door to anyone and to be suspicious from the beginning. Conversations can be done through a door and it will give you time to call the company, more importantly 9-1-1. If the person at your front door is legitimate, then they will understand you checking with the company and/or the police to verify their identity and the purpose for their visit. It cannot be stated enough – if you see something suspicious, go with your good senses and call 9-1-1. Director Giammarese also advised the audience about the second smash and grab at the Best Buy-Bloomingtondale. But in this incident, the suspects were arrested, due to the instincts of the responding officers. Director Giammarese put on view for the audience, the supervisor’s in-car video showing Sergeant Machek’s response to the call at Best Buy. During the video, Sergeant Machek passes two



suspicious vehicles while driving to Best Buy and his gut feeling lead him to turn around and follow the cars (and thus viewed the obstructed license plates), which resulted in a short vehicle pursuit, to a brief foot pursuit, and then the arrest of the individuals who broke into the store. The case is in the court system in which the State’s Attorney Office is seeking Class X Felony charges against the offenders. Director Giammarese commended the police staff for their work throughout the year. He also wanted to extend his gratitude to all Neighborhood Watch Program participants for their time and efforts in working with Village agencies to keep the community safe and support community activities/events.

Bloomingtondale Fire Chief Jeff Janus maintains his enthusiasm as he spoke about his department now well into his 4th year as Chief. Fire Chief Janus presented another entertaining and informative PowerPoint presentation. Chief Janus proudly displayed the fire department personnel photo and the fire vehicles/equipment needed to do the job, which included a new ATV donated by Firehouse Subs to be used during community events, such as the fireworks display or SeptemberFest. The fire department’s response totals for the 2017 year: 4,816 total calls for service, with a daily average of 14 calls/day, which broke down as EMS–3,417 calls and Fire–1,399 calls. When calling 9-1-1 for the fire department, it will take 3 transfers for the call to reach the fire department, and this issue is being addressed. Fire Chief Janus encourages the public to register with **Smart 9-1-1** for quick access to a person’s medical conditions and medications for emergency personnel to administer immediate help (and the subscriber should update as needed or at least once a year). Also, Chief Janus promoted the use of the **File of Life packets** (mini medical files that are placed on the refrigerator door) that can be utilized by the fire department and/or the police department. Fire Chief Janus urges residents to use large numbers with contrasting colors on homes so that the emergency responders will not have difficulty finding a location. Also, he encouraged residents to adopt a fire hydrant, in which to keep the area clear around the hydrant so that it is visible. With each Open Forum meeting, Chief Janus has addressed and answered the question that continues to pop up – Glen Oaks Hospital is the closest hospital-3.4 miles, (with Alexian Brothers Hospital at 8.8 miles and Central DuPage Hospital at 9.7 miles), so that during a medical emergency, the patient will be transported to that location. Training is at the forefront so that fire personnel can be prepared as construction



materials change for buildings, people furnish their residences with more complex (and unfortunately more flammable) items, and hazardous materials are used and transported more than before. Chief Janus provided a hands-on item – the Thermal Imaging Camera that showed the audience what it really looks like inside a room on fire as apposed to the way the tv shows portray the event. The device helps to locate individuals in a fire. Chief Janus encourages residents to “close before you doze” so that closed bedroom doors provide a barrier should a fire occur in the middle of the night. Another safety reminder given was to keep dryer vents and lint trays clear. Chief Janus encourages everyone to have a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector or a combo device, just as long as they are properly installed and maintained. There is technology that the alarms can be connected to I-Pad devices for those individuals using headphones who may not hear the fire alarm.

Jim Monkemeyer has been employed with the Village for 26 years and now holds the title of **Director of Public Works**. This was Director Monkemeyer’s first Open Forum meeting so he provided an overview of the divisions he oversees – Streets, Forestry, Equipment Maintenance, Building & Grounds, Utilities, and WRF. The department is known to tackle the quality of life concerns that the public may not realize until trouble arises – especially the streets and water issues. Due to the winter season’s ups and downs, problems such as potholes and water main breaks will occur and the staff is up to the task after dealing with many a ‘Chicago winter’. The public can report these issues to (630) 529-5865. Snow removal hasn’t been too bad, but there is plenty of winter yet to go. There was clarification that Lake Street is a State road and that Bloomingdale Road is a County road. Yet, there may be some overlapping of services as the Bloomingdale snow removal drivers work on the roadways of our Village.

Mayor Franco Coladipietro has been a believer that his job is always easier, because of the department heads in the room who do their job so well to deliver great service to those who live or visit Bloomingdale. He even quoted President Ronald Regan “You can accomplish much if you don’t care who gets the credit”. The re-development of Lake Street continues as the Amaco gas station has been torn down and the Dunkin Donuts re-locates from westbound (north side) to eastbound (south side) Lake Street. The new location allows Dunkin Donuts to have a drive-thru and at this time there are no plans for the old location. The new strip mall at Lake Street and Circle Avenue continues to develop as construction is to begin on the old Shell gas station. Street scaping will take place on Lake Street to raise the median and increase lighting. Mayor Coladipietro stated in summary that something will be done with the old Connie’s pizza building. Mayor Coladipietro advised that the Holiday Festival of Lights in the Old Town area was well received and that possibly 600-1000 attended the event. New restaurants are scheduled to open in April 2018 and more festivals and events could be seen in the near future for the area. Single family ranch-style homes, townhomes, and condominiums are scheduled for the area at the south end of Stratford Square Mall. Regarding the mall, “Pickle Ball” courts are being presented to the planning commission for the old JCPenny section. Indian Lakes Resort (230 acres of land) will be the biggest decision regarding re-development and the Mayor wants the citizens’ feedback. At this time the planning commission has brought in outside consultants and the filing with the Village has not been completed. The area next to Bloomingdale Horizon (on Lake Street) for 103 unit facility



has gone back to the planning commission due to a lighted interchange issue involving IDOT approval. The Mayor also encourages the public to invest in the community as well by keeping purchases and dining events in town. Mayor Coladipietro advised that problems at the State level takes a toll on the local level, especially the sales tax revenue. He doesn’t expect that consumers make all their purchases in Bloomingdale, but whenever you can make such an effort, it would improve the circumstances in Bloomingdale that trickle down to our quality of life.

I want to extend my sincere “**Thanks**” to Mayor Coladipietro, Village Administrator Scalera, Police Director Giammarese, Fire Chief Janus and Public Works Director Monkemeyer for taking the time and providing our residents with important information about our Village.

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. Please try to observe the following guidelines.

- ❖ 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, during a busy day, residents sometimes forget that little things matter. In this case, keeping Village sidewalks clear. **Please** be considerate of neighbors, children, dog walkers, bicyclists, and any other travelers who wishes to use the public sidewalks. Parking a vehicle over a sidewalk can be a hazard to those who use it daily. Parking over a sidewalk forces pedestrians to walk or ride their bike out into the street to maneuver around the vehicle. This can be 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 and to avoid the possibility of a ticket in the future. Any questions or comments regarding this information please contact Officer Dawn Odoi of the Bloomingdale Police Department at (630) 529-9868.

CURRENT CASES BEING INVESTIGATED...

Burglary to Motor Vehicle

Reports were taken in which person(s) took various items from unlocked vehicles in the following areas between November 27, 2017, through January 26, 2018.



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| 300 Block of Morningside Drive | 300 Block of Dee Court |
| 200 & 300 Block of Terry Lane | 300 Block of Dawn Court |
| Stratford Place Apartment complex | 100 Block of Norton Drive |
| 200 Block Lakeshore Lane | 300 Block of Norton Lane |
| One Bloomingdale Place | 100 Block of Melbourne Court |

All the reports listed in this section are crimes of opportunity. The Bloomingdale Police Department encourages citizens to be aware of their surroundings at all times and to secure their belongings. It is best to get things ‘out of sight’ – by taking the items inside the home, securing items in vehicle trunks, and securing vehicle doors and residential doors. Become “harder targets” for the criminals. **Remember:** Report all suspicious person(s) and vehicles in your neighborhood, including unregistered solicitors, repair services, and those seeking assistance.