



Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE
MY NEIGHBOR WILL

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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2018

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING...
will be Wednesday, November 14th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Room. For the meeting, the Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District and the Bloomingtondale Police Department will get you "safety ready" for the the upcoming holidays. Refreshments will be provided. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Hope to see you there!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...
For those who attended the September Neighborhood Watch General Meeting, they were given a special opportunity to view the inner workings of the new 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, known to police personnel as AC/DC (Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center). Director Brandon Hurd made arrangements with his dispatch personnel that the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch Program would be given a private group tour of their facility which they moved into on April 3, 2018. Even before viewing the inside of the building, the group was fascinated by the unique location of the structure. There was definite planning for the site and construction of this communication center. Operations Manager Afton Swistek was the tour guide, in which she conducted two separate tours due to the size of our group. The newly constructed building is 20,000 square feet and it can withstand an F4 tornado. The building also houses the Addison Emergency Operations Center which can be utilized for emergencies and training classes. Currently, there are 27 Police Dispatchers (5 In-Training) and 11 Fire Department Dispatchers (including part-timers). AC/DC works with 8 Police Department agencies including: Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingtondale, DuPage County Forest Preserve, Glendale Heights, Itasca, Westmont, and Wood Dale. There are 6 Fire Department agencies that work with AC/DC which are Addison, Itasca, Pleasantview, Tri-State, Westmont, Wood Dale, and Bensenville joined in October. Last year, the dispatchers answered over 200,000 phone calls and approximately 60,000 of those phone calls were 9-1-1 calls. The group was able to see the various meeting rooms available to emergency personnel before they made their way to the dispatching area. The dispatchers have individual work stations in which they are monitoring 10 computer screens. To give a visual idea of what a dispatcher is

handling – radio communication, 4-computer screens, a phone, a phone map, 3-computers to enter all information regarding calls for service as well as a screen to keep track of the police officers. The fire department dispatchers have the same computers, but a different layout, and the additional equipment of a ZTRON (in station tones when a fire house has a call for service). All telecommunicators (dispatchers) have 3-keyboards (phone, Village, and CAD-calls for service) and 4-mice (phone, Village, CAD, radio). Not to forget, there are several video screens on the wall (approximately 36 screens) to monitor the insides and outsides of the police department covered by AC/DC. Dispatchers normally work in pairs for a police department to share the workload and if needed, other dispatchers who are working in the same general work area will help out if things start really 'jumping' for a certain town. The group realized the significance of such an opportunity to tour the facility. The Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch attendees truly appreciated the arrangements that were made to accommodate our group and for the valuable information that Operations Manager Afton Swistek provided.

BE PROACTIVE

Due to the Opioid epidemic, it seemed to be a good time to remind the public about the "drug dealer" lurking in your medicine cabinet. During a previous Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Karen Budnik, the Communications Supervising Coordinator for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), gave the AWARxE Presentation regarding the abuse of prescription drugs. AWARxE is a consumer protection program provided by NABP, in which NABP is an impartial professional organization that supports the state boards of pharmacy in creating uniform regulations to protect the public health. Karen Budnik encouraged the proper disposal of unused/expired medications, which helps prevent the misuse and abuse of such items. There has been an ongoing increase of children and young adults who access a parent's or grand-parent's medicine cabinet and then take the available medications, in which they ingest the medication and/or given it to their friends. Please keep in mind that unused or expired medications can be taken to a local medication disposal program, such as the one located inside the Bloomingtondale Police Department, or there are area medication take-back events, which are posted at different times of the year. For

some areas that do not have a collection program, the Food and Drug Administration have guidelines for disposing unwanted medications in the home. In summary...

1. Check the label and follow instructions for safe disposal.
2. Do not flush the drugs down the toilet, unless label states it.
3. If there are no instructions on label, then take medication out of container and mix with an undesirable substance, example coffee grounds or cat litter. Seal the mixture and dispose in home garbage.

Safely managing and disposing of household generated sharps reduces pollution to the environment and prevents injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks. Similar to prescription drugs, many states have options available for safe disposal of sharp items, such as hazardous waste sites, mail-back programs, and syringe exchange programs. For our area, needles may be safely disposed at home by doing the following:

1. Place used sharps in an empty household container such as a laundry detergent bottle, bleach bottle, or other opaque sturdy container with a screw-top lid.
2. Insert the needles point-first, mark the bottle "Do Not Recycle", and store with the cap screwed on.
3. When the container is half-full, seal the cap with duct tape and place in the garbage (not recycling). Never place loose needles, syringes, or lancets in the trash.

Please share this information to raise awareness for these safety issues.

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.

CURRENT CASES BEING INVESTIGATED...

Theft **Stratford Square – 152 Stratford Drive**
A Glendale Heights woman reported that person(s) unknown removed her wallet from a bench in the children's play area. No further information available. The value is unknown.



Theft **Costco – 505 W. Army Trail Road**
A Carol Stream woman reported that at 12:50 p.m. her cell phone was taken in the Costco food court area. The phone was inside her purse in a shopping cart when she placed a food order. When she was finished, she noticed the phone was gone. The estimated value is \$1,000.00. No further information is available.

Theft **300 Block of Veneto**
A Bloomingdale woman reported that in May 2018, she received a message on her Apple computer stating that she needed to call a number and give personal information so her computer can be fixed. The total value of money taken from her account was \$8,089.39. The victim recently received a call from the number given in the message. No suspect information at this time.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle
KinderCare – 290 Knollwood Drive

A Carol Stream woman reported that at 7:35 a.m. person(s) unknown forcefully entered her vehicle and removed her purse. The approximate value of the loss is \$35.00. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the parking lot.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle **200 Block of Cardinal Drive**
A Bloomingdale man reported that sometime between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., person(s) unknown entered his unlocked vehicle parked on the driveway and were able to gain entry to his garage (attached to home). Unknown person(s) then made entry into a vehicle parked inside the garage. Items were removed from each vehicle – approximate value unknown.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle
China Star – 360 W. Schick Road

A Bloomingdale man reported that sometime between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., person(s) unknown entered his unlocked vehicle and removed the contents of his wallet. Value of loss is unknown at this time. The vehicle was parked and unattended in the parking lot at the time of the incident. No suspect information available.

Annual "Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops"

"Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops" is organized by the Bloomingdale Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #175. Each holiday season, the officers of the department seek to share and spread joy to community children in need. This event is a great opportunity for area children to meet with local police officers in the holiday "Spirit of Giving", in which each child is accompanied by a Bloomingdale police officer while shopping for gifts to be personally enjoyed or to give to other family members. If interested, the public can make contributions towards the event. Please contact Fraternal Order of Police – President Anthony Svoboda at (630) 529-9868 to make a donation for such a worthwhile occasion.

