



Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Watch



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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING... **will be the Open Forum with Police and Fire Officials on** **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in the Village** **Hall Council Room.**

The tradition continues as we begin the New Year of 2020 with the Director of Public Safety for the Bloomingtondale Police Department and the Fire Chief of the Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District. The speakers will present a "State of Bloomingtondale" address as they summarize the current status and future developments for each agency. The Village continues to change and both agencies adapt to the changes. The public is encouraged to attend and bring any questions or concerns to this unique and insightful evening. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided. **Hope to see you there!**



2020 Neighborhood Watch Meetings / Events:



- March 11th – Mayor / Village Services
- May 13th – To be announced
- September 9th – To be announced
- November 11th – To be announced
- Tuesday, August 4th, 2020 –
National Night Out Against Crime

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

The November Neighborhood Watch General Meeting has been integrated into the Citizen Police Academy. Although the Citizen Police Academy Class 2019 officially graduated the week before, the participants were asked to attend the N/W meeting for the opportunity to network with other residents and to understand the purpose of crime prevention efforts. It is hoped that the participants see the benefits of community involvement. The Bloomingtondale Police Department strives to add to the growing list of community activities and events already established – School Safety Presentations (Grades K-8th), Early Childhood Presentations, Safety Talks & Police Tours for groups (Cub/Boy Scouts, Daisy/Girl Scouts, Church groups, Home school, etc.), Child Safety Seat Checks by certified technicians, Safety Presentations for Senior Citizens, Senior Day Fair, Bike Rodeo, National Night Out Against Crime event, Open House event, Illinois Special Olympics events ("Rooftop Cop" w/Dunkin Donuts & Torch Run), Fraternal Order of Police – Lodge #175 – "Shop w/ Bloomingtondale Cops", in addition to the Citizen Police Academy and the Neighborhood Watch Program. The goals of crime

prevention are to have a positive relationship with the public, to enhance the lines of communication so that we can work together, to prepare citizens in their safety, and to "harden the target", in which to lessen the opportunity for crime to occur in our area. In a sense, getting the message to the criminals and making it known, 'don't mess with our town'. After explaining the idea of crime prevention and community relation programs and events, holiday safety reminders were discussed. Officer Odoi utilized cartoons depicting safety issues so that it could generate a conversation instead of a lecture. Everyone needs reminders regarding safety topics.



Online shopping will increase due to the upcoming holidays, so citizens need to equally increase safety precautions. Use a secure virtual private network, known as a VPN, so cybercriminals cannot track your activity from your mobile device, desktop, or laptop. Be wary of free Wi-Fi, because it may reveal your private information. Use a so-called disposable e-mail, if you don't want to provide your own e-mail when you are visiting sites that require an e-mail address. Watch your transactions – make sure the connection is secure by the padlock emblem or the URL with the "https" at the top. Stop before you share – find out who is requesting information and be careful of any links they provide and ask you to click on. Watch your monthly credit card statements – for any unauthorized charges or for new accounts that have been opened in your name. Beware of e-mail scams – especially when a major retailer reports a major hack that occurred to their system.

Home safety should be considered.

- Secure doors and windows at all times.
- When unoccupied, then make your home appear to be occupied; use timers on lights, radio, and T.V.
- Do not advertise vacation plans on social networking sites or casually with businesses you may frequent.
- Ask a friend or relative to check on things while you are away on vacation.
- Notify police department of the dates you will be away.

Regarding your vehicle, valuables should be secured in a trunk (if possible) and items should not be left in plain view – too inviting to others. Criminals are betting that during the holiday season, citizens are busy running around and things are so hectic, in which many will leave their car doors unlocked, items unsecured, and some may leave cars running in driveways to warm up or leave a car unattended for a quick trip inside a day care center, a bank, store, and/or gas station. No car should be left running and unattended for any period of time. There are unscrupulous people who observe – ‘stake out’ neighborhoods and become familiar with your routine so they can take advantage of a situation that presents itself. Leaving vehicles running in commercial areas, (including day care centers, gas stations) give those lurking around an opportunity to steal your vehicle – a quick trip inside is not as quick as you think when other people or computer systems may slow you down. It is worth the time to properly secure the vehicle and the items inside for all the work that you put towards making the holiday season enjoyable for others and yourself.

Additional Holiday Safety Tips:

Pay attention to those around you. Be alert & confident. Place wallet, money, cell phone, in front clothing (pants/coat). Keep your purse/wallet and packages w/you at all times. If possible, keep purse and packages close to your body & in front of you. Do not leave items (purse, phone) unattended in a shopping cart, on a counter, or floor. Park in well-lit, busy areas – consider the time of day upon arrival & departure.

Street solicitation around the commercial areas will increase since those soliciting want to take advantage of citizens who enjoy being charitable. Individuals may approach the public to ask for money to purchase gasoline for their disabled vehicle or buy a meal for their family. Some have been quite persistent in their request for financial help. It may be a scam. It is sometimes difficult to tell a ‘hard luck’ story from an individual who may be legitimately in need. Although you may want to spread the “good feelings” of the holidays onto others, please know that there are agencies and/or church groups that can provide the support that is needed (also, for a longer period of time and to work on the bigger picture for the person in need). The Bloomingdale Police Department strongly discourages citizens from getting involved with such matters **and** to notify the police department if someone needs assistance. It would be better to play it safe and get help for the situation. There are unscrupulous individuals who will do or say 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. **Please don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.**

Illinois law prohibits all drivers from texting and driving, from using a hand-held cell phone while driving, and all teen drivers from using a cell phone while driving. Motorists are encouraged to: “Drop It and Drive”.



It's not just cell phones that distract drivers...



WINTER DRIVING TIPS:

- Plan ahead – route, time of day, traffic, weather forecasts. Allow extra time for travel.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Clean windshield, windows, rear windows, headlights, brake lights, and license plate area when snow and/or ice are on the vehicle.
- Keep your car's headlights on low beam. This provides better visibility particularly in fog or snow.
- Use turn signals when turning and changing lanes.
- 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...

Theft of Lost/Mislaid Property
Wendy's – 155 S. Gary Avenue

A Carol Stream man reported that he had left his credit card behind while at the restaurant and person(s) unknown made unauthorized purchases. The approximate value of the loss is unknown. No suspects at this time.

Theft **Lifetime Fitness – 455 Scott Drive**

A Bloomingdale man reported that between 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., person(s) unknown removed his wallet. No further information at this time.

Theft **McDonald's – 101 E. Lake Street**

A McDonald's employee reported that he left his phone by the drink machine. When he returned, the phone was missing. The case is pending investigation.

