



## Community Watch Newsletter



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### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office Community Watch Program is to proactively partner with law abiding citizens to prevent and reduce crime. This will be accomplished through communication, crime prevention education and assisting communities, neighborhoods and businesses in achieving a safe environment for its residents.

### **Greetings to all of the Bonner County Community Force Block Watch Captains!**

Thank you for stepping up in your area of Bonner County and taking a leadership position in your local block watch group.

*continued on page 2*

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1** Our Mission
- 1** Vacation Safety Tips
- 2** National Nights Out Program
- 2** Watch Captain Questions and Answers
- 3** Attention all Boaters – Safety Class
- 4** Humor in Uniform

### **VACATION SAFETY TIPS**

Planning for vacation can decrease the chances of becoming a victim of crime. Thieves often target tourists because the person is often distracted, sometimes lost, has lots of baggage, carrying a camera, jewelry, money and other valuables. They also like to target an empty residence. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safer:

- Go through your wallet and purse and take only essential credit cards. It's a good idea to call your credit card company and let them know your vacation destination. Using travelers' checks is also a good idea. Stay off social media about your trip. Thieves use it to find out when you're not at home.
- Make sure smoke and burglar alarms are functioning properly, video camera too. Set home to proper temperature. Set some lights, TV or radio onto timers, so it appears your home is occupied and hide your valuables or keep in a safety deposit box.
- Have a neighbor, house sitter or trusted friend collect your newspapers and mail and have your garbage cans placed and removed as normally done. Or stop newspapers, mail and any regularly occurring deliveries or services to your home.

*continued on page 3*

## National Night Out Program

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 1, 2017 and participate with your neighbors in National Night Out. This national event is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW).

Last year over 16,000 communities, in all 38.5 million people in all 50 states, U.S Territories and Canadian cities and military bases worldwide participated. This year's participation is expected to be larger.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participate in local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnership; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fight back.

You can participate with an activity like a community watch party or cookout. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond one night.

If this sounds like something you would like to do for your community watch group you can contact the National Association of Town Watch at [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org). Once registered, coordinators receive an *Organizational Kit* filled with "how to" materials such as promotional ideas, guidelines, tips and answers to questions.



## Watch Captains Questions and Answers

This newsletter is as much yours as it is the Community Watch Program. As such we want to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues you may have. The questions will remain anonymous but the issues and discussion will be an important part of our communication and education process.

Call or email your question to Sheryl Kins at [skins@bonnercountyid.gov](mailto:skins@bonnercountyid.gov). It will then become part of the next newsletter.



**Question:** Would it be possible for the Sheriff's Office to notify the neighborhood when they are looking for a person with an active warrant for his/her arrest that is known to live in the area, so that we can help locate that person

**Answer:** Logistics can be a problem with such a request in so much that by the time the deputy gets to your neighborhood it may be too late.

While not all the law judges in north Idaho have a tendency to issue misdemeanor warrants that can only be served during a specific set of hours, it can make the serving of the warrant difficult.

If the suspect, who has an active warrant is seen and runs into a structure to hide it requires a search warrant to enter the premises. Provided that if a citizen sees the wanted person go into the structure and maintains a continual observation of the structure until law enforcement arrives the deputy can rely on the citizen's testimony and would have probable cause to enter the house.

Felony warrants are a whole different ball game and much more leeway is provided in serving the warrant.

The Sheriff's Office webpage does have a link to those individuals who have active misdemeanor and felony warrant. To see these lists go to

<http://www.bonnerso.org/outstanding-warrants.php>

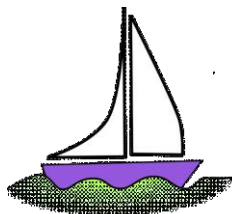
## Attention all Boaters!

All boaters, regardless of experience, are encouraged to take a boating safety class to learn about Idaho boating laws and pick up some boating safety tips. Many families take the course together so both adults and children can safely operate their boat. Some insurance companies even offer discount to those boat owners that successfully complete the "Boat Idaho" boat safety course. Check with your insurance agent to see if you are eligible.

Many organizations and government agencies offer education courses and training in proper boat operation. These include the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadron, and Bonner County Sheriff's Office.

Visit <http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/activities/boating> for information on the Boat Idaho Course.

The Bonner County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a Boat Idaho Course on June 24th for the boating public wanting to learn basic boating laws and safety. The class begins at 9:00 am at the Marine Division boat house located at 4001 N. Boyer. The class is expected to last about six hours. The Boat Idaho Course is free to the public and is open to residents of any state. This course will teach you about boating safety and the requirements and equipment needed. Basic boating laws and the rules of the road with regard to navigation and boater courtesy will be instructed. Any questions, or for further information, or sign up for the course call 263-8417 ext. 3125



- Have a neighbor, family member or trusted friend park their car in your driveway and leave your contact info with them. Secure your residence by locking all doors and windows and leave shades or blinds in a position you normally have them.
- While on vacation a purse should be carried close to your body (using your strap cross-wise over the chest area is the best way). Another suggestion is a fanny-pack around your waist for your wallet, credit cards, etc. or money pouch concealed under your clothes. Check out ATM locations near your destination so you don't have to carry a lot of cash.
- Use inconspicuous luggage bags, not expensive designer ones - they tend to draw attention to your belongings. Pack as lightly as possible and carry-on anything needed or of value such as jewelry or medication. Don't display your money, expensive jewelry, cameras or other valuable items and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Stay in well-lighted areas and well-travelled streets, when possible. Have a map with you regarding your destination, so you don't get lost and can familiarize yourself with the surrounding areas. Keep your car locked and leave valuables locked in your car trunk or hotel safe.
- Rooms should be securely locked and any keys secure with you. Don't leave valuables lying where they can be seen. Always lock the door while in the room and know who is knocking before you answer the door. If the person says they are hotel staff, be sure to confirm with hotel operator, that the person is in fact from the hotel. Use "Trip Advisor" to obtain information on what places are safer and what areas are more dangerous in regards to your vacation destination.

## **Humor in Uniform**

One fine spring day, Ole decided to take Lena for a drive in his new car. As they were driving through town, a policeman pulled them over and told Ole that he was doing 50 miles an hour in a 30 zone.

"Oh, no", Ole protested. "I vas only doing tirty Officer."

"No, you were doing fifty", replied the cop.

"Really, Officer, I vas only doing tirty", Ole replied stubbornly.

"Well", bellowed the cop, "I clocked you doing FIFTY!"

At that point, Lena, sitting in the back seat and trying to be helpful, spoke up. "Officer...you really shouldn't argue vit Ole ven he's been drinking."

Notes: