



## Community Watch Newsletter



### 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 community watch group.

*continued on page 2*

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

#### ***HALLOWEEN***

Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick and have reflector strips or tape on their costume. Try to stay on well-lit streets with people around. Be sure your children understand traffic rules and have them go on a certain route with a designated return time and meeting place. Older children should have a cell phone with them.

"Stranger Danger" is important for a child to know, no matter how old. Be sure your child understands how to call 911 if they are lost or have an emergency. Younger children should never go alone when "trick or treating" nor go inside a house when a stranger invites them to "come inside".

Keep your pets inside or some other safe place until Halloween is over. Be sure to inspect all the "trick or treat" candy before the children or child eats them.

#### ***THANKSGIVING***

When cooking, keep children out of the kitchen as much as possible away from the stove, hot foods and liquids. Splashed and steam from gravy, vegetables or coffee can cause serious burns. Keep an eye on the food you're cooking. Ensure electric cords dangling off the counter from appliances are out of the reach of children.

Children should never be left in a room alone with a lit candle and kept away from lighters and matches, Make sure smoke alarms are working by

*continued on page 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Our Mission
- 1 Holiday Safety Tips
- 2 Voices for Recovery Programs
- 2 Watch Captain Questions and Answers
- 3 Vehicle Burglary - A Hole Under the Door Lock
- 4 Humor in Uniform
- Increase in Mail Theft

## Join the Voices for Recovery Strengthen Families and Communities

You are invited to celebrate  
Bonner County National Recovery Month.

“Celebrating Our Successes:  
Pursuing our Potential”

Monday, September 18, 2017  
6:30PM – 8:00PM

The Ponderay Events Center  
401 Bonner Mall Way, Ponderay, ID

Please plan to join us in recognizing the success of mental health and substance treatment programs here in Bonner County and join in the conversation on the issues and opportunities for strengthening this work in our community.

### Guest Speakers Include:

The Honorable Judge Barbara Buchanan  
First District Court, Bonner County

Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler

Presented by:  
Freedom House Ministries  
The Bonner County Drug Court  
Tamarack Treatment and Counseling Center



## 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 [sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov](mailto:sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov). It will then become part of the next newsletter.

**Question:** I still have problems understanding what I should do if I find someone trespassing on my property.

**Answer:** The following outline should assist:

1. It is suggested that you post “NO TRESPASSING” signs and/or “100 square inches of fluorescent orange” or “bright orange” every 660 feet along your property (an exception to this posting is a cultivatable field).
2. If someone is on your property and is not welcome, you must tell that person to leave immediately.
3. If the person leaves, there is no crime.
4. A trespasser may not return and enter your property without permission or invitation within a year.
5. If the person does not leave, the person is trespassing and can be cited. Call the Bonner County Sheriff’s Office. A deputy will respond, and you will need to sign a citation. You may have to go to court, so try to get photos or audio proof and/or a witness of the trespasser.



## Vehicle Burglary-A Hole under the Door Lock

It's been fairly common for burglars to break into cars using a hole-punch to make a hole under the door lock and enter your vehicle. As far back as the late 1990's this process has been used by thieves to enter vehicles and remove personal items such as credit cards, cash, etc.

The thieves punch a hole just below the door lock without setting off your alarm. Once inside, if you have a GPS unit, they will obtain your home address. If no GPS unit, they will go through the glove box for registration, insurance and other pertinent information. It may be several days before you realize the theft. They now know where you live and the vehicle you drive. Next, they will drive by your residence and if your vehicle is not observed, they will assume you're not at home and break in.

Most often this type of burglary occurs in a shopping center, sporting event, concert or any place where a suspect can walk around vehicles unsuspectedly. As a precaution, before you leave, take a few seconds to check under your door locks for suspicious holes. They will resemble a bullet hole. There will be no broken glass and the thief will even re-lock your car door. Law Enforcement should be contacted if you see anything suspicious.



testing them.

Children can help with other Thanksgiving preparations outside the kitchen area, but should otherwise be kept busy outside with playing games, watching the television or reading a book.

Be sure to thaw the turkey in refrigerator a few days ahead.

## CHRISTMAS

Every year more and more Christmas Package thefts are reported. Here are some effective ways to prevent theft of packages:

Have packages delivered to your workplace.

Reroute or reschedule delivery time if you're not at home for the holiday. Install a Smart Security

Camera at your front door (one-third of burglars break into houses from the front door) or use motion detectors. The best prevention is to have home security system or alarm system in conjunction with a front door camera to set off alarms when someone is trying to steal a package.

You can also have your mail delivery stopped until you return home. UPS and 7-Eleven convenience stores have recently started a new "Smart Locker Program" where you have packages delivered to a locker. When going to friends or relatives for Christmas be sure to let a trusted friend or relative check your house every day.

Make sure you have safe lights on your tree and house decorations. The best lights to use are usually the LED types.

The big new scams are fake delivery notices from UPS, U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, Best Buy, Footlocker and many other companies. They take you to a "lookalike" website and as soon as you click on to put any of your personal information, they will steal your identity or take your money from credit card info. You can check the publisher of the website by going to "Google Play Store" or "Apple Store" - they can usually tell you who the publisher is

**Happy Holidays**

## Humor in Uniform

A policeman pulls a man over for speeding and asks him to get out of the car. After looking the man over he says, "Sir, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are bloodshot. Have you been drinking?" The man gets really indignant and says, "Officer, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are glazed. Have you been eating doughnuts?"



"TELL HIM HE'S GOOD-LOOKIN', DAD. IT WORKED FOR MOM WHEN SHE GOT PULLED OVER."

## Increase in Mail Theft

The theft of mail is increasing in our region we would like to provide some useful suggestions on how not to become a mail theft victim.

Items that could and will be taken from your mailbox:

- Payments (Checks)
- Identifying Information (Name, Social Security Number, and Account/Credit Card Numbers.
- Delivery of new checks, new Credit/Debit Cards, Birthday/Holiday cards with money Inside.
- Delivery of packages left on your porch from UPS, Fed Ex, Etc.

*How to prevent from being a mail theft Victim:*

- When you put the "Flag" up on your mailbox, you are generally telling the crooks there is a check being mailed from this mailbox. All outgoing mail should be mailed at the Post Office to help prevent theft.
- Always try to pick up your mail as soon as possible from your mailbox.
- DO NOT leave your mail in your mailbox overnight.
- Locking mailboxes are better, but are not 100% theft proof.
- If you are having a package delivered to your home and you will not be there to accept it, have a neighbor watch for, and pick up the package when delivered.
- Get rid of all your paper and mail based banking and credit transactions. Choose the online option and you will not only save trees but possibly your good name. If there is no sensitive information in your mailbox, then an identity thief can't steal something he could use.
- Another step in preventing mail theft is to have your neighbors, ones that your trust, remove your mail when you are gone for a couple of days or alert the post office. The post office can have your mail kept at the main office until your return from your trip.

**Last Page for Notes**