



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 community watch group.

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21 THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

Security consultant Chris McGee, and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, interviewed 105 burglars for his book. Here is what they were told:

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. **If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.**
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

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The Idaho Repository

Have you ever heard of the Idaho Repository? The Repository is an on-line data collection system operated by the Idaho Supreme Court. It is currently up-grading the system to become paperless.

On this site you are able to conduct a name search to see if the person you are inquiring about has any contact with the courts being civil or criminal. Or, you can search if you know the court case number. The records are available from 1995 forward, although some information for older cases may be available. If you have questions regarding case information, please contact the office of the Clerk of the District Court in the county where the case originated.

It also has a link to a website to make on line payment to any court for fine obligations you may have.

Since this site is in a transition update the larger counties in southern Idaho have already switched over to <https://mycourts.idaho.gov>.

Access to confidential court records is governed by the Idaho Court Administrative Rule 32. The Idaho Supreme Court may authorize access to confidential court records through the data repository. This type of access is referred to as “extended access”. To apply for extend access complete and submit the ***Request for Extended Access to Court Records*** form and return it to access@idcourts.net

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. It will then become part of the next newsletter.

Comment: As a block watch captain I was recently contacted by one of my neighbors who said he was out for a walk and noticed fresh footprints in the snow of a driveway that had not been plowed. He knew the neighbor was not at home but away for the winter.

After getting further details from my neighbor a call was placed into the Bonner County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch. The dispatch operator obtained my call back number as well as asking other questions about the incident.

I then notified all of the neighbors signed up for our watch group and shared what was observed and reported.

Within 10 minutes I received call from a deputy who also went over the information I gave to dispatch and shortly thereafter he responded to the residence and walked the length of driveway to the house to investigate. Sometime later I received a follow up call from the deputy who shared his findings. As it turned out the footprints were from our neighbor’s friend who was checking the property.

I then followed up with the neighbors in my watch group and provided them the findings.

I have to say the Community Watch Program worked exactly as it was initially explained to our neighborhood.



Ways to prevent Identity Theft

Did you know missing wallets account for over half of identity thefts? Three times more than on-line scams according to the Travelers Insurance Company. When your wallet or important insurance or credit cards are stolen or lost you can place a security or fraud alert with these credit bureaus: Experian at (888) 397-3742 (experian.com) and Trans-Union at (800) 680-7289 (transunion.com). These fraud alerts are free.

It's always a good idea to make photocopies of all the cards you keep in your wallet and at home. Include your Social Security card, Medicare card, all PINs (Personal Identification Numbers) or passwords for online accounts and bank cards, checks, etc. After copying (front & back), put all of them in a safe place at home.

If your wallet is stolen or lost, do the following:

File a report with the police or sheriff's department, get copies of the report and send to your bank and credit reporting companies. Call your credit card companies and request to have an account number change as soon as possible. Have your bank cancel any ATM cards and have them send you a new one. Change Pins and get a new checking account if yours is stolen or lost. Contact your DMV to get a replacement driver's license. Have them put the lost or stolen report in your file. If any of your medical insurance cards or Medicare card are stolen, ask for a replacement account number to avoid insurance fraud. Also, your auto insurer should be called to avoid any problems if a thief makes an accident claim on your policy and some homeowner policies do include identity theft protections.

Wait about two weeks after you've lost your important cards or wallet and check your credit report. You can get a free report by calling (877) 322-8228 or go to creditreport.com. Thieves usually apply for credit within two to three weeks but this is generally not enough time for new cards to be issued to them. Keep checking your credit report about every two to three months.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into the kids' rooms

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.

14. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

15. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

16. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

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Humor in Uniform

A policeman was taking a vandalism report at an elementary school when he was interrupted by a six year old girl. She looked up and down at this uniform and asked, "Are you a policeman?"

"Yes, I am," he said.

"My mother told me that if I ever needed help I should ask a policemen, is that right?" the girl asked.

"Yes it is," said the policeman.

The girl extended her foot to the policeman and said, "OK, then would you tie my shoe?"



New Recruit

Police Chief: "As a recruit, you will be faced with some difficult issues. What would you do if you had to arrest your mother?"

New Recruit: "Call for back up!"

17. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

18. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

19. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

20. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

21. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

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