



Community Watch Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 3

July 2018

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.

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

We currently have 37 Community Watch Groups consisting of 55 Captains & Co-Captains and 724 members.

continued on page 2

Star Card - Idaho's REAL ID

The Star Card is the Idaho driver's license or identification card (ID) that **adds a Star** for compliance with the REAL ID security standards. Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act requires uniform standards for credentials, such as driver's licenses and ID cards.

You are required to have a Star Card when boarding a commercial flight, if that is your only ID. Without a Star Card or other form of accepted, government issued identification that complies with the **REAL ID Act**, such as a U.S. Passport or military ID, you will be turned away. Avoid the disappointment, hassle, or disruption in your travel plans – get a Star Card *today*.

A Star Card, passport, or military ID is also required to access any federal facility such as a national laboratory or military base.

A U.S. passport will still be required to fly internationally.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Our Mission
- 1 Idaho Star Card – Real ID
- 2 Revision to Idaho's Trespass Law
- 2 Watch Captain Questions and Answers
- 3 Security Landscaping
- 4 Humor in Uniform
- National Night Out Program

continued on page 3

Revision to Idaho's Trespass Law

House Bill 658 goes into effect July 1. The following information was taken from the spring edition of the Idaho Farm Bureau Quarterly.

“This past legislative session, Idaho lawmakers overwhelmingly passed a bill that clarifies, simplifies and strengthens the state’s trespassing laws. Its design is to balance the rights of landowners and the rights of the public and is a solid improvement upon the state’s previous trespassing laws. Under Idaho’s previous trespassing codes, someone guilty of criminal trespassing faced a \$50 fine, if convicted. That was hardly enough to deter trespassers or give prosecutors reason to pursue a conviction. Under the new statute, someone guilty of criminal trespass faces a minimum \$300 fine for a first conviction, \$1,500 for a second conviction and \$5,000 for a third conviction. Someone with a third conviction could face a felony charge if there is more than \$1,000 worth of damage involved with the trespass. Not only is this felony provision harmonious with current law when it comes to malicious damage to property, it is completely reasonable.”

To read the complete article go to the Idaho Farm Bureau Spring Journal website:

www.idahofb.org/uploads/NR-SpringQuarterly2018.pdf

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.

Question: Technology seems to be taking over our lives, especially with our children. As a parent is there information out there that I can educate myself on how to protect my family from matters involving social media?

Answer: The Bonner County Sheriff’s Office has had recent discussions about this issue and there is movement in the works regarding this subject.

With proper planning, information will be forthcoming in future newsletters. In the meantime the following website offers some help:

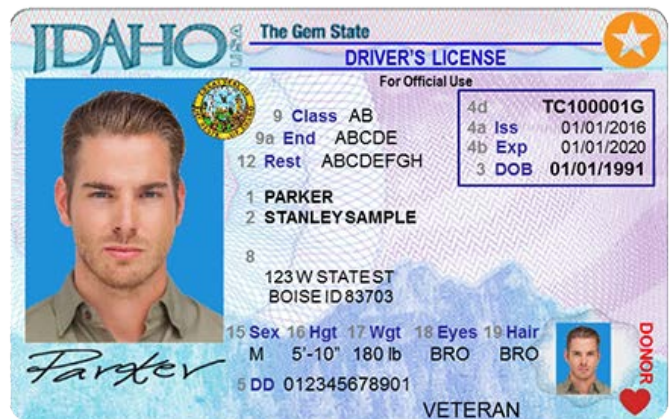
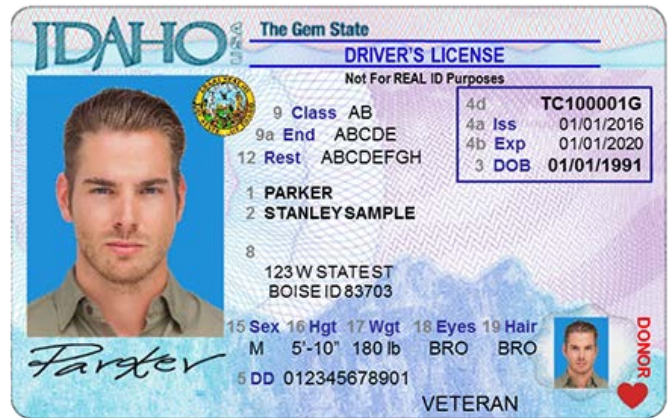
<https://www.safesearchkids.com/parents-guide-to-protecting-teens-on-social-media/#.WzFemdKWycw>

Security Landscaping

Law Enforcement calls it "crime prevention through environmental design" but the principles are simple: Increase visibility throughout your yard (front and back), limit access to your property and eliminate hiding spots. You want to keep your bushes (including hedges) trimmed to 2 or 3 feet tall. Taller bushes provide burglars good hiding spots. In addition, it is recommended the first 7 feet of tree branches be pruned to prevent someone from climbing into an attic or second floor of a residence or other building.

To further deter break-ins, you can plant thorny bushes under windows. Some plants that work well are common holly, barberries, firethorn, creeping juniper, purple berberis, blackthorn and roses. Also, using gravel stones under windows to eliminate a criminal's ability to be silent. Anyone who walks on that gravel will make a loud crunching noise with each step.

No one should feel unsafe in their homes or experience the violation of having a stranger enter your house and take something that belongs to you. Make it harder for the criminals.



The only visual difference between the current Idaho driver's license design and the Star Card is the Star on the upper right hand side of the card. Only a Star Card allows you to board a commercial flight or access a federal facilities such as a military base or national laboratory without an alternative form of accepted, government issued identification that complies with the REAL ID Act. A current Idaho driver's license (non-Star Card) will allow you to legally drive and provide your identity for tasks like buying alcohol, obtaining social services, or registering to vote.

For more information visit your local Bonner County Driver's License Office or search on the link:

<https://itd.idaho.gov//starcards/star-card.html#>

Humor in Uniform

Ole and Lena are getting older, and vun day dey vas out in the car and Ole sees the red lights flashing in the mirror. So he pulls over and the policeman says "Ole, vat the heck are you doing?"

"Vell," says Ole, "Lena and I vent over der to da supermarket and got some tings for our dinner, and now ve yust have to go over to da drugstore for our medicine."

"OLE!" says the policeman, "Lena fell out of your car four blocks back!!"

"Oh, tank God" said Ole, "It vas so quiet dat I thought I vas goin' deaf!"



Little Bobby's kindergarten class went on a field trip to their local police station. While there, they saw pictures posted on a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals from the state.

One of the kids pointed to a mugshot and asked if that person really was a wanted person.

"Why, yes he is" said the deputy. "We want to catch him pretty badly."

Little Bobby asked the deputy, "Why didn't you keep him locked up when you took the picture?"

National Night Out Program

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 7, 2018 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, to generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnership. 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. Once registered, coordinators receive an *Organizational Kit* filled with "how to" materials such as promotional ideas, guidelines, tips and answers to questions.



Last Page for Notes