



BLOCK WATCH NEWSLETTER
MAY 2010



CELEBRATE SPRING!

Well, we are finally starting to warm up and the flowers are in bloom! I wanted to share a few tips with you on how to keep running a successful block watch! It is important to keep your group active or it will eventually fade away!

Building a Sense of Community!

When we think of Neighborhood Watch, we think of reducing and preventing crime, knowing our neighbors, taking security measures for our property, and reporting suspicious and criminal activity to law enforcement. That is the beginning and the foundation of this program. However, once the foundation is in place, we move on to a very important component of the Watch program: Building a Sense of Community in our neighborhoods. "Sense of Community" may be defined as a feeling members have of belonging; that members matter to one another and the group and that they are part of a larger stable structure. A neighborhood has this when neighbors don't want to move because they like their neighbors; they periodically get together for a Neighborhood Watch group presentation and block parties; they build a history together that draws them close.

"Since there is nothing so well worth having as friends, never lose a chance to make one."

Francesco Guicciardini

How to Build a Sense of Community!

It starts with you!

- Take a walk around your neighborhood with your dog/spouse/roommate, waving at neighbors, picking up trash, and being watchful for those suspicious and criminal activities you may need to report to police.
- Take time to visit with neighbors, and catch up on their lives.
- Invite a few neighbors over for dessert or to watch a football game, or a BBQ potluck.
- Start a collection for your local food bank or rescue mission, that the whole neighborhood can participate in, such as collecting blankets, coats, or canned foods.
- Be on a neighborhood committee to give awards to neighborhood adults and kids who do something special
- Consider neighbors in need and help out with bringing them a meal, mowing their lawn, or any other practical way to help meet their need.
- Watch out for each other and be willing to watch over each others homes when they're on vacation.
- Sit out front on nice days in your patio chair with a cold drink, and visit with neighbors.
- Plant flowers or add creative touches to your front yard. We are attracted to beauty and creativity, and it encourages conversation.
- Have fun in your neighborhood. Consider planning "garden tours", Easter egg hunts, or other ideas to celebrate your community.

Staying Informed!

The Post Falls Police Department has created an alert system for the citizens of Post Falls. If you visit our website at postfallspolice.com and on the right hand side click the link that says PFPD Email Dispatch and enter your email address. This link may be renamed soon, but for now it is PFPD Email Dispatch. There are several topics to receive updates on, for example: general news and information, press releases, breaking news, OASIS, animal safety, and community services. You can choose all or one topic and then you will receive those updates in your email. This is how the Police Department is now going to be sending out the Block Watch Newsletters, crime maps and other important information!

Block Watch Meetings

If you are having a Block Watch meeting and would like us to stop by and say hi, please feel free to email me at aschild@postfallspolice.com and either myself or another officer will come by!

Also, if you know a Block Watch Neighborhood that may have fallen apart for a while or you think may not be informed of our new website updates, could you pass on this information to them and help them get signed up. I would greatly appreciate an email from Captains who I have not met, so that I can get their current contact information and keep them updated as well.

Overgrown Weeds!

Post Falls City Code requires that all **property owners** are responsible for eradicating weeds that grow uncontrolled and mowing any weeds/grasses over 8 inches in length on their property. Insect infestation is one of the concerns with uncontrolled weed/grass growth. In addition, many weeds that grow in North Idaho are classified as noxious and constitute a health concern. The weeds also create a fire hazard during the dry months. You as the property owner are responsible for the eradicating of the weeds/grass in the swale area of your property. Please remember to keep your lawn and other weeds cut down for the season!

Blocking Sidewalks!

Please remember to keep the vehicles that are in your driveway clear of the sidewalk. It is against city ordinance to block a sidewalk at any time.

In the Loop:

We have compiled a list of reported burglaries and vandalisms in the City of Post Falls. Along with any pertinent information you may need to be aware of. We have provided a map labeling the four “districts” within the city of Post Falls on our website. Go to the Community Services link, then go to Block Watch and click “district map”. In the months of February, March and April 2010 the following incidents were reported.

District #1= listed 10 auto burglaries, 6 residential burglaries, 0 non residential burglary, and 12 vandalisms reported.

District #2 = listed 21 auto burglaries, 11 residential burglaries, 2 non residential burglaries, and 23 vandalisms reported.

District #3 = listed 10 auto burglaries, 4 residential burglaries, 4 non residential burglaries, and 14 vandalisms reported.

District #4= listed 12 auto burglaries, 10 residential burglaries, 2 non residential burglaries, with 17 vandalisms reported.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, have questions, or concerns please call the Post Falls Police Department (208) 773-3517 or come see us at 1717 E Polston Ave, Post Falls ID.