



BLOCK WATCH NEWSLETTER **JANUARY 2012**

The Post Falls Police Department wants to wish all of our citizens a happy and prosperous New Year!

If you are like most people, the dawning of a new year brings about a list of resolutions as we each attempt to become “new and improved” versions of ourselves. Certainly, some of these resolutions will lead to a better life for you and your family and you are to be congratulated for this success.

While you are making that list of resolutions, here’s one to add. Make a resolution to make your community a better place to live. Not only will this improve your life, but it will also improve the lives of your family and friends. In this month’s newsletter, you will find some tools to make that resolution an everyday part of your lives.

Who You Gonna Text

Fighting crime has gone high tech with the Post Falls Police Department. As we try to find ways for people to report crime that they see or have experienced in a timely manner, you can report crime and even send photos of criminal activity by way of text messaging and email.

The process is simple. All you have to do is send your message to crime@pfpd.us and it will go directly to the Post Falls Police Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center will respond so that you know that your “call” for help has received.

It is important to remember that this new way of reporting crime is not a substitute for calling 911 in an emergency situation. For such emergencies, 911 is still the fastest and most efficient method of getting help.

Rather, this system is a way for people familiar and comfortable with texting to report crime and engage in becoming better citizens by helping law enforcement keep Post Falls a great place to live.

More information on this new method of crime reporting can be found at our website, www.postfallspolice.com.

Reverse 911 Emergency Notifications

How would you know if there was an emergency situation in your neighborhood? Most of us would have to wait until we read about it in the local paper after the crisis was over to find out that we may have been in any danger.

With the Reverse 911 Emergency Notification System for Citizens, a joint project between the Post Falls Police Department and Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, citizens can be notified of emergency situations in their area by landline, text messaging and email. The notification is fast and enables you to respond appropriately in a local emergency situation.

The best part is that this service is FREE! All you need to do is go to the Post Falls Police Department website and click on the link to register. It is fast and easy and it will give you a heads up if there is a natural disaster or dangerous activity in your area that you need to avoid.

Safe Neighborhoods

On December 8, the Post Falls Police Department's Community Services Department hosted a Block Watch meeting at the police station. There was a tremendous turnout and we believe that the citizens who attended left with some valuable information and tools to make their neighborhoods a safer place to live.

While it was great to see such a large turnout, it was also noticeable that many of the housing developments in our city were not represented at the meeting. A Neighborhood Watch program has proven to be an effective deterrent to criminal behavior and the Police Department encourages interested home owners' associations and other individuals to join us in organizing a watch in your neighborhood.

The Post Falls Police Department is eager to assist you in starting a Neighborhood Watch program in your housing development. Simply call either Curtis Exley or Ashleigh Schild at 773-3517 and let them know that you are interested in starting or improving your Neighborhood Watch program.

The best way to deter crime in your neighborhood is to make crime tougher to commit in your neighborhood!

Hope for Everyone...All the Time

In our Holiday newsletter, we introduced a new program within from the Police Department to combat the growing suicide problem in our community. The "Suicide Awareness: Hope for Everyone...All the Time" program is not a short term program for the Holidays. It is a response to a year-round issue that the Police Department is seeing all too often.

The statistics for suicide are staggering. Kootenai County has the highest rate of suicide, per capita, in the state of Idaho. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Idahoans ages 15-34. For every successful suicide, there are 25 unsuccessful attempts.

The Police Department's Suicide Awareness program provides a support system, as well as referral to community resources during these dark thoughts.

If you need help with this program, contact the Post Falls Police Department at 208-773-3517 or go online to www.postfallspolice.com. We will also provide presentations to community groups as we try to fight this growing epidemic.

Prescription Drug Drop Off Box

The Post Falls Police Department has installed a large green prescription drug drop off box in the lobby of the police department. This drop off is for our citizens to use to drop off unwanted or out of date prescription or over the counter drugs. There are some items that are not accepted and are not to be placed in the container. Those items are: Illegal drugs, Hydrogen Peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, ointment, lotions or liquids, needles or sharp objects, medications from businesses or clinics and or thermometers. If you have drugs or drug related items that will not fit in the in the box, you can still bring them to the police department to the front reception counter during business hours or by contacting the Dispatch Center during non-business hours.

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 month of December, the following incidents were reported:

District #1= listed 3 auto burglaries, 1 residential burglaries, 3 non residential burglary, and 7 vandalisms reported.
District #2 = listed 1 auto burglaries, 2 residential burglaries, 3 non residential burglaries, and 8 vandalisms reported.
District #3 = listed 2 auto burglaries, 0 residential burglaries, 0 non residential burglaries, and 8 vandalisms reported.
District #4= listed 0 auto burglaries, 0 residential burglaries, 1 non residential burglaries, with 6 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.