

▶ November 2011

Block Watcher

Thanksgiving is possible only for those who take time to remember; no one can give thanks who has a short memory. ~Author Unknown



Drug Houses

Do you think you may have a drug house in your neighborhood? The following are warning signs of drug activity. While some of the indicators are reasonably conclusive in and of themselves, others should be considered significant only if multiple factors are present.

1) High traffic: cars and pedestrians stopping at a home for only brief periods. 2) People bringing valuables to a home such as bikes or electronics and leaving empty handed. 3) Visitors sitting in the car for awhile after leaving the residence or leaving one person in the car while inside, as lookouts. 4) Obvious signs of people exchanging packets for cash. 5) Using drugs while sitting in their car. 6) Paraphernalia (eg. Syringes) found lying around 7) Regular activity at extremely late hours (several common drugs are stimulants and users tend to stay up late at night) this could include foot/vehicle traffic or "tinkering" with cars, electronics etc. 8) Motorcycles and bicycles making frequent late night trips to and from a residence where other indicators of drug activity are observed. Here is a list of observable information that is helpful to police when reporting suspected drug activity: Date and time that persons/vehicles arrive and leave, what type of activity is observed while they are there, vehicle license plate and state of issue, vehicle description /number of occupants. This information can be reported anonymously to our Special Investigations Unit at 778-8611. If you are willing to leave your information, a detective will return your call. And please, never put yourself in danger while attempting to get information or obtain a license plate number!

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Did you know?

- *You can look up crime statistics for your neighborhood by going to the Police Department's website at www.cob.org/police and clicking on the neighborhood crime statistic link on the right hand side?*

Vinelink

Have you been the victim of a crime? Did that person go to jail or prison? Want to be notified when they are released? Vinelink (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) can do that! Vinelink is a national database that can send a notification to your email or phone when an offender is released from jail or prison, escapes or dies. Information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The transfer of custody data occurs every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day from the jail to the system. An offender will not know if someone is registered for notification.

Also available is SAVIN Protective Order (VPO). This is a free service that allows petitioners to be notified by telephone when a protective order has been served by police. It will also give a 30 day advance notice by telephone when the protective order is about to expire. Petitioners can privately register to be notified by phone, without the respondent's knowledge.

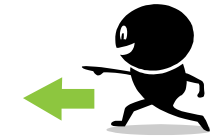
For more information go to www.vinelink.com or call 1-877-846-3492.



House Numbers

As a first responder there is nothing worse than having a major emergency occur and not being able to find the address immediately. Precious moments can be wasted on trying to track down an address because there aren't house or apartment numbers clearly visible. First responders know Bellingham quite well and can get to the block they need quickly. Unfortunately not all address sequencing is the same from block to block. Some house numbers go in increments of two's, others fours and then there are half numbers as well.

House numbers aren't something people give a lot of thought to but when you don't have house numbers prominently displayed on the front of the house the response time by fire, police and ambulances could be slower. So please make sure that there are house or apartment numbers displayed and the numbers are near a driveway light or porch light that is kept on during the hours of darkness so the numbers are clearly visible at night.



Solar house numbers that light up after dark!

Bellingham Municipal Code– So What Really Is The Law Anyway?

10.36.020 - Gambling Prohibited

Except as authorized by or pursuant to RCW Chapter 9.46, as amended, it is unlawful for any person or persons to play at, wager anything of value upon, or in any manner take part in or carry on, or cause to be opened, or to conduct, set up, keep or exhibit any gaming table or game whatever for the purpose of gambling, or any game of chance for the winning or securing of money by chance, played with cards, dice or any device of whatever kind or nature, whether or not of the kind or character herein mentioned, for money, checks, credits or any representative of value whatever, or to have in his possession to be used for the purpose of gambling or winning money by chance, any gaming device whatever; provided, that nothing in this section shall apply to any game or gambling activity in which all of the participants are players as defined in

Emergency Preparedness

Did you know that there are 5 active volcanoes in Washington State (Baker, Glacier Peak, Rainer, St. Helens and Adams)? According the USGS (US Geological Survey), if Mt Baker erupts it could cause the following hazards: Lava flows, pyroclastic flows (hot avalanches of lava fragments and volcanic gas formed by the collapse of lava flows or eruption clouds), tephra (blast fragments from the eruption such as ash) and lahars (fast moving slurries of rock, mud and water that look and act a lot like wet concrete. Landslides and pyroclastic flows can also turn into lahars.

If Mt. Baker were to erupt Bellingham could find themselves cut off from traveling in most directions since lahars would follow the paths of least resistance down the Nooksack River and the Skagit River. Please see the map attached on the next page for the most likely scenario. In this scenario were to occur Bellingham could see some of their supply chains temporarily cut off which is why it is important to have extra water, food and supplies on hand in your home.



