

Block Watcher A Newsletter for Block Watch Captains

April 2006 Issue



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Spring Has Sprung!



Block Watch Works!

It seems like in today’s busy world we are inundated with stories that have no happy ending. Sometimes as Block Watch Captains you hear and see more of that “bad news” than anyone else. That can be frustrating. Recently however, we have had some neighborhood successes worthy of celebration.

Ofc Young did a wonderful job of keeping you all apprised of the fruits of your diligence as Block Watch Captains. I would like to continue this and have already noticed several opportunities to recognize your efforts.

Within the past few weeks, two neighborhoods have had success in shutting down “drug houses”. These residences were suspected of drug activity by both neighbors and law enforcement for a long time, in one case years. As we all know however, this in and of itself is not enough to shut down a drug house.

It was the continued efforts of Block Watch captains and law enforcement, combined with

every available resource the ultimately led to the removal of tenants and/or residents. Every time there was suspicious activity, **YOU** were reporting it.

When dealing with suspected Drug Houses, it is essential that we document all suspicious activity to build a “paper trail” of what is happening. As always, you are our “eyes and ears” and without your assistance, we often-times are unaware of continued suspicious activity.

In these two instances, the Block Watch Captains kept reporting their concerns and continued to be patient until a resolution was reached. Keep up the good work!

If your neighbors are unsure what to look for and how to respond to drug activity in your neighborhood, please share the information listed in the below article.



Drug Activity- What to look for and How to Respond

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.

- High traffic
- Cars and pedestrians stopping at a home for only brief periods

- People bring valuables to a home such as T.V.s, bikes, electronics and leave empty handed
- Visitors may sit in the car for awhile after leaving the residence or may leave one person in the car while inside
- Lookouts- frequently young teens or kids (con’t on back page)

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Drug Activity (con't. from front)

- *Obvious signs of people exchanging packets for cash, using drugs while sitting in their car, paraphernalia (eg. Syringes) founds lying around*
- *Regular activity at extremely late hours (both cocaine and methamphetamine are stimulants and users tend to stay up late at night) this could include foot/ vehicle traffic or "tinkering" with cars or electronics*
- *Motorcycles and bicycles making frequent late night trips to and from a residence where other indicators of drug activity are observed*

Below 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*

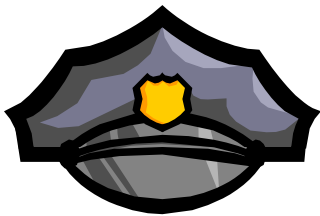


**NATIONAL
NIGHT
OUT**
America's Night Out Against Crime

It is time to start planning for National Night Out Against Crime! The date of our event for this year is August 1st. I will be sending out more information as I receive it from National Association of Town Watch who sponsors the event.

Please Mark Your Calendars!

It is not too early to sign up to host a neighborhood event. You can log onto our website and complete the registration form, print a copy and then send it to me. As you know this is our showcase event for the year.



2006 Citizen Academy Graduates

As part of my crime prevention duties, I am the facilitator for our Citizen Academy. The academy is a twelve week program offered for citizens who live or work in Bellingham. It is a chance for them to learn more about what we do here at the BPD.

Classes include meeting Chief Randy Carroll, learning about patrol, SWAT, K-9, investigations and several other divisions within our department. Participants also get a chance to tour the jail and our 911 dispatch center.

The 2006 class had fifteen participants who graduated on March 21st. After the graduation, class participants are able to go for a four hour Ride-along with a patrol officer. I think they would all tell you that this has been a great experience.

If you are interested in more information about our citizen academy check our website or contact me. I will begin accepting applications for our Winter 2007 class in the fall.

(Pictured at right: A citizen learns just how **heavy** a bomb protective suit is!)

