

Block Watcher

A Newsletter for Block Watch Captains

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Issue

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POLICE

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Questions or comments?
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NNO 2007: A Success Despite The Weather!



Andy Day of the Office of Emergency Management captivates an audience of neighbors while discussing the May Your Neighborhood program.

On Tuesday, August 7th, nearly 50 celebrations took place across the city to promote safe neighborhoods and take a stand against crime. Over 1200 neighbors gathered to socialize and take part in National Night Out Against Crime. Despite the grey weather, folks found time to share in great food, learn about the Map Your Neighborhood program, and engage in good old fashioned neighborly chit chat. My thanks to all of the speakers and guests who gave their time at events. This included the Bellingham Police and Fire Departments, Whatcom Humane Society, Whatcom Dispute Resolution and many others.

The success of this year's NNO is largely credited to the collaborative efforts of Block Watch captains such as yourself and the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods. Hats off to everyone who came out that night to show support for the health and well being of the 23 neighborhoods that make Bellingham so unique!

Spoof Calling Cards- What they are, how they work

In the last few years, Caller ID spoofing has become much easier. Millions of people have Internet telephone equipment that can be set to make any number appear on a Caller ID system. Several websites have sprung up to provide Caller ID spoofing services as well.

For instance, Spoofcard.com sells a "virtual calling card" for \$10 that provides 60 minutes of talk time. The user dials a toll-free number, then keys in the destination number and the Caller ID number to display. The service also provides optional voice scrambling, to make the caller sound like someone of the opposite sex. Caller ID spoofing appears to be legal, although many of its uses are not. Both Spoofcard.com and SpoofTel.com say they will surrender logs to authorities in response to subpoenas and maintain that their service is intended for "entertainment purposes only"...

Sounds like one more reason to be wary of suspicious telemarketing phone calls to me!



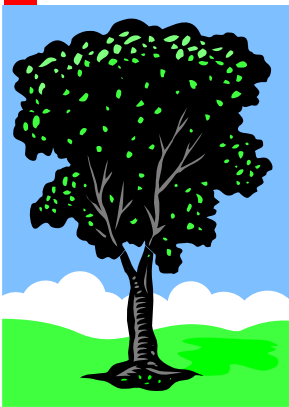
Citizen Academy 2008 Applications Now Being Accepted!

If you have participated in the Police Citizen Academy in the past, you know what an exciting learning experience it can be. After every class, I receive tons of feedback from citizens about how it has given them a deeper perspective of the Bellingham Police Department.

As a crime prevention officer, I have the chance to participate in a lot of different programs...this is my favorite! I really enjoy the diverse group of people who come through the academy and I love to see the way we learn from each other over the course of twelve weeks.

The 2008 Citizen Academy will begin on Tuesday, January 8th. We will meet each Tuesday night for twelve weeks from 6-9pm in the police training room. Class size is limited, so please get your application in early! You may fill out our application on-line or stop by reception to pick one up.

Get to know our website!
www.cob/police



The paper shredded at the Crime Prevention Information Fair generated about 3,000 lbs of recyclable paper product. That is a little more than enough to save 4 100 foot tall trees! Nice job neighbors!!

Pedestrian Safety Tips for Back To School

Fall is "Back to School" time and the perfect opportunity to teach kids about Pedestrian Safety, some of us adults could use the refresher too!

Remember that kids learn best by the example we give them so please use your best judgment when walking with young children.

10 Tips to Teach your Children:

1. Do not cross the street alone if you are younger than 10 years old.
2. Stop at the curb before crossing the street.
3. Walk, don't run, across the street.

4. Cross at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
5. Look left, right, and left again before crossing.
6. Walk facing traffic.
7. Make sure that drivers see you before crossing in front of them.
8. Do not play in driveways, streets, parking lots or unfenced yards by the street.
9. Wear white clothing or reflectors when walking at night.
10. Cross at least 10 feet in front of a school bus.



Children under the age of 10 should not cross the street alone