

The Waite Hill Police Beat

April 2014



Hello to all residents. We are hopefully heading into springtime and warmer weather very soon after a very cold and snowy winter.

Our new part-time officer, Chuck Cox, is now working the road on his own. Chuck brings a lot of experience from the Mentor Police Department, which is certainly an asset. He has had a smooth transition into our community policing program from the field training program.

As a reminder, our surrounding communities are experiencing multiple thefts and break-ins, so please be diligent in keeping your vehicle and home locked. The best deterrents are alarm systems and well-lit properties. Motion lights seem to help when you have them at the four corners of your home. A big reason for the increase in this type of criminal activity is related to drug use. Heroin is turning into an epidemic problem and people are becoming very desperate when finding ways to continue their addiction. These individuals are doing whatever it takes to feed the addiction.

A few residents have been reporting coyote sightings during the middle of the day and are concerned for their safety. I spoke with a representative from Ohio Department of Natural Resources who responded with the following: Coyotes are rarely dangerous to people. The key to living with coyotes is remembering that they are naturally afraid of people. The most effective way to prevent a bad encounter with a coyote is to reinforce this natural fear through your behavior. If a coyote is seen in its natural habitat, it is fine to watch it from a distance. Coyotes are often seen in neighborhoods near natural areas. Never approach a coyote, let your dog approach it, or feed it. If you are approached by a coyote, or it comes into your yard, scare it away by shouting at it and waving your arms over your head. Using an air horn or whistle will also help scare coyotes away. These actions will reinforce the coyote's natural fear of people and teach it that your yard is not available territory. I have also included the following website for further information on coyotes. Our coyote population is under control and we are keeping a close eye on it.

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/b929/pdf/b929.pdf>

Please remember, if you notice anything that does not look right or looks suspicious, please contact us. The best way to reach an officer is through the dispatcher at 440-942-1660. If it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

The Waite Hill Village Police Department, as always, looks forward to serving the community. Your safety and security is always our concern!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police