

The Waite Hill Police Beat



May – July 2017

Hello to all residents.

Now that spring is here, we have to remember to take care with pedestrian traffic. Our Village has had an increase of bicyclists and joggers over the years. There have been a few incidents with bicycle crashes and near misses of pedestrians versus vehicles. We are trying to be diligent with the speeding vehicles on our roadways, contact us with any areas of concern that you may have.

We have had a few changes within the police department; Officer Tyler Lillash has been in the training program with Sgt. Brian Beaumier and he will be on his own very soon. This will solidify our department back to fully staffed and we can have the cover car on patrol as well.

On May 29th at 10:00 a.m. there is going to be a Memorial Day Tribute to veterans at our Village Cemetery. Council and one of our Village residents, a career veteran, wanted to continue this event. Sergeant Brian Beaumier is assisting with the planning of this event. He is contacting last year's speakers and is attempting to contact Village residents who served in the armed forces. You may contact Sgt. Beaumier by e-mail bbeaumier@waitehilloh.gov or by phone at 440-942-5015 if you served our country or have any other questions. This year we wanted to open the invitation to all residents as we honor our veterans.



Document Shredding

We are continuing with document shredding from "Shred It" this year. They will be here at Town Hall on June 17th between the hours of 9:00 – 12:00 noon. The truck will be located in the front parking lot. Please pull your vehicle in the front parking lot and you will be assisted.

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

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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://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/mammals/coyote>

IRS Imposter Scam I would like to remind everyone of the on-going IRS scam that the police department has received numerous calls about. This scam is a phone scam where the caller claims to be an IRS employee informing you that you owe taxes and threaten to arrest or deport you if you don't pay. Be aware because this scam is very sophisticated in that the scammer may:

- Know all or part of your Social Security number
- Rig the caller ID to make it look like the call is from the IRS
- Tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the card number

To prevent yourself from falling victim to this scam, know that the IRS does NOT:

- Call to demand immediate payment about taxes owed without first sending you notification by mail
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement to arrest you for nonpayment.

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040 or if you think you have been scammed, call their helpline at 1-877-908-3360 for advice and guidance.

I know I have been very redundant about the increase with residents receiving scam letters in the mail, via email, and by telephone. If you are the recipient of anything suspicious, please do not hesitate to contact the police department for help verifying the legitimacy of any communications. Again, one of the biggest scams is the threatening IRS calls, please see below.

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