



Neighborhood Watch Newspaper Crime Prevention

from S.C.O.P.E. (*Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort*)
and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office

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Spokane County, WA

Spring 2020

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For updates on what is happening in Spokane County, Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Cheney, and Airway Heights pertaining to the coronavirus, please visit <https://www.spokanecounty.org/>



Find us on *FACEBOOK*

<https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneNeighborhoodWatch>

<https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneValleyPolice/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LibertyLakePD/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Airway-Heights-Police-Department-178543925553985/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Cheney-Police-Department/163436093685302>

Crime Prevention Unit

Crime Prevention Deputy for Spokane County
(for all unincorporated areas): 509-477-6044

Crime Prevention Deputy for Spokane Valley:
509-477-2592

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator (all areas):
509-477-3055

www.spokanesherriff.org

www.scopespokaneva.org

(Click on the Neighborhood Watch link under
Crime Prevention or at the left-hand side of the
page at the sites above)

Crime Prevention Office at the Valley Mall

(Located on the first floor next door to Sears)

Due to concerns over spreading the coronavirus the office is closed until further notice. Please contact, 509-385-3855 if you need assistance.

Crime Prevention



We are neighborhood strong!

The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough for everyone; for some, more than others. Following the stay-at-home order can be a very challenging task especially if you are someone who looks forward to a night out with friends, going to church on Sunday, or that once a week dinner with extended family. It's not easy and it is definitely a change of lifestyle for a lot of people. The stay-at-home order can leave you feeling alone when you are not getting the social contact essential from others that help us thrive. We know that individually we are capable, but together as a community we are strong! So, what can we do to help ourselves and others in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic?

In the day and age that we live in, a vast amount of us have learned to communicate via the internet. This is a great time to learn how to connect with sites that allow you to chat with one or several people at a time. When using the internet to connect, consider sharing a skill such as teaching someone to play an instrument, bake a cake or bread, draw, or have a story time with kids or to the elderly. You can even use video chat for a book club meeting, go live on Facebook and have a movie watch party, play a game, or have an online family night which will allow you to catch-up and to check-in.

Need a date night with your friends? Consider driving to your favorite restaurant and supporting them by picking up a curb side meal and meeting up with your friends online. Do your hair, get dressed up, spruce up your environment, turn on a little music, and grab your favorite beverage and chat and laugh with your friends online for a couple of hours. It is not in person but having face to face interactions can help ease the pain of loneliness.

Have kids that seem a bit bored? Try having a once a week movie night and include some favorite junk food. It will give you an opportunity to step away from planning a big meal and give the kids something to look forward to! Build a fort or bring out the tent! Which one of us didn't enjoy doing that as a kid? Think of all the excitement it would allow for the kids to have, by letting them throw up blankets, pull out sleeping bags and flashlights and tell stories in the front room or backyard. Allow the kids some chat time with friends on the phone or through video chat, or have them drop a letter in the mail to a friend. Kids enjoy getting something in the mail for them to open.

Tired of being inside and need to get out? Spring is just around the corner and with concerns about trying to limit the spread of the COVID-19, travel is limited. However, you and your neighbors are not restricted from taking an occasional walk around the neighborhood provided you stay at least 6 feet away from those who are doing the same. If you are out walking, challenge yourself or your neighbors with a walking challenge where you can track your steps, minutes and blocks walked. check-in once a week on your progress. Help the kids color the sidewalk, or hang colorful pictures, drawings, or hang a banner written with words of inspiration so that walkers and runners can enjoy the view or feel encouraged during this time!

Check-in with a next-door neighbor who may live alone by making a phone call or leaving a note or card on the door with a way to contact you if they need assistance getting supplies, or might just need a little companionship. Sit on their porch while they stay indoors and talk with them outside of their door. Consider volunteering your time for a group or organization looking for help during the pandemic such as food pantries. There are also kids who are receiving free meals from schools in your area Monday thru Friday. Some of these schools have extra meals that they are handing out for other kids who live in the district but do not attend the school but could use a lunch. If you know of a child who is not getting enough to eat in your area, consider picking up

We're in this together

Local Police and Sheriff's agencies reflect upon the current COVID-19 and how it is affecting our communities.



Airway Heights Chief of Police Brad Richmond



People who live in Airway Heights are doing what is most important, they are complying with the Stay at Home Order and doing what is necessary to keep our community and their families safe from the COVID-19. The area residents have been doing a great job of staying home and staying healthy. When our citizens do go out to get some exercise, they are doing a great job of public social distancing.

Our police department is continually addressing our PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) concerns and making sure that our officers and our families are safe. The Airway Heights Police Department is being more visible and doing a lot more prowl checks around our residences and our businesses, I call it, "prevention through presence" by applying this community policing effort we are reducing the victimization of our community members and business partners.

In relation to COVID-19, we are reacting to violent crimes, for instance, we are seeing a 50% increase in domestic violence crimes right now. We are also seeing a lot more thefts so we would like to encourage our residents to leave their porch lights on and make sure the surrounding areas on their property are well lit. And, that if they do see something, they say something. Call Crime Check at, 509-456-2233, or 9-1-1 if it is an emergency and the officers of Airway Heights will contact them and take care of their needs.

The community is coordinating well together. The Fire and Police Departments are coming together to feed our children every day at 9:30 and 10:00 with our partners from Cheney Public Schools and Kalispel Tribal PD at some of the major stops. Second Harvest Food Bank and Cleone's Closet food bank in our community are working with our faith based partners to make sure people have enough food and proper nutrition.

I think that people are doing a great job of supporting each and are doing a fantastic job of supporting our local restaurants and stores out here in Airway Heights. I would like to encourage people to continue to support our local business owners and our community services.

It is very important for us to continue doing what we have been; practicing social distancing and supporting our community. We can get through this together!

Undersheriff Dave Ellis Of the Spokane County Sheriff's Department



The Sheriff's Office has implemented some measures to reduce exposure to the COVID-19, for the community and for our deputies. We have discontinued community services such as ride along's, Community Academy (changed from Citizen's Academy), Traffic school, citizens tours, and any activities related to the Sheriff's Office that include grouping people together. The Sheriff's Office has also temporarily suspended in-house training, specialty unit trainings, elective trainings, and in-person roll calls. Also, to help reduce the chance of exposure to deputies when they go to a call, we have provided them with extra personal protective equipment such as mask, gloves, Tyvek suits, and sanitizer.

We are also providing some of our services to the public a bit differently by identifying which calls can be handled by phone or online. This type of reporting should be reserved for the lower level priority calls. A report is still taken and forwarded to investigations for potential follow-up, but if we can eliminate that first round of exposure and do as much by phone or online than it is safer for everyone involved.

We are seeing an increase in crime which usually happens when school is out and the weather gets nicer. That increase seems to be happening in certain categories like commercial burglaries and garage burglaries. Thieves are likely looking to target certain businesses that are not open because they know that there may not be employees in the vicinity. We have also seen an increase in vehicle thefts and prowlings. As a result, we have asked our Deputies and our S.C.O.P.E. patrols to really focus on those areas and try and spend some time being a visible deterrence and presence.

For the most part, the community has been supportive! The community by and large have cooperated with the proclamation from the governor and are doing good job. We have occasional groups that have to be reminded to adhere to the governor's proclamation but everyone is generally respecting it. We have had an occasional run on supplies at the store, but even that has calmed down. We are not pulling people over to see what their reason for travel is, there is no such thing as "essential paperwork". We are just asking people to please do what they can to stay home and minimize the spread of the virus.

We know that people want to get back to work as well as get out and recreate, and that will get even harder as the weather gets nice, but the community has done a great job of doing their part to flatten the curve of this virus!



Liberty Lake Chief of Police Brian Asmus

"I think that our community has been incredible about supporting the efforts of the city and responding to the governor's order the best that they can with what the provisions are, says Chief of Police Brian Asmus. "Every night I go out for a walk and there are signs of encouragement in people's homes. There are people that are out being safe and doing what they need to do while social distancing. They seem to be very friendly, and they are looking for that engagement because they've missed it. I think people are trying to get to know their neighbors even more so than before. And, if nothing else, that is a very positive thing.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has been brought to our attention, there are a few things that we have put into place from an operational level. One change is if the things that are minor in nature can be handled over the phone, we encourage our officers and the public to use that as a resource as a way to be able to contact our officers. We are also encouraging our officers to practice social distancing if they get called to a residence. We ask that the complainant or the victim to come outside to talk to the officer so that the officer is not necessarily going in to the home if they don't have to.

Dispatch has also put some protocols in place where they screen callers before officers are respond to houses. Dispatch ask a series of questions like if they are experiencing flu like symptoms so that the officers are aware before they even respond.

The City of Liberty Lake participates in Crime Check. We have been encouraging people to use Crime Check as a resource to report their incident. Because of that, there has been an substantial increase in the number of Crime Check calls. We have been actually tracking our crime stats differently to see what is directly related to the COVID-19 versus our normal operations, and literally we have not seen any significant differences in the type of crimes or volumes of crimes. The only impact that we have specifically seen is that our grocery stores seem to have a little more shoplifting that is occurring. But overall, our thefts and our shopliftings are not higher than the prior month".

"Overall, adds Liberty Lake Mayor Shane Brickner, I have seen more people willing to help and stepping up. People who have changed their business formats now trying to figure out how they can get hand sanitizer out to people. People are making mask at home so people can stay safe. It has been very impressive to see and uplifting. The residents in this community have always been very supportive and willing to help. I take a lot of pride in that and in this community and I am grateful for that".



Chief of Police John D. Hensley Cheney Police Department

We have built a bit of a culture here at the Cheney Police Department. If you call because your cable is out, we will go to your house. We can say that we can't fix it for you but we know who to send you to for that kind of thing. We want to help; our perspective is that a lot of the people who have lived here for the past 30-40 years have never had any contact with a police officer which is why we respond to everything. Our motto is that no call is too small. Dealing with the COVID-19 has made it so that we have to do some things differently, it is a cultural change, but I hope it's not something that our agency has to get comfortable with.

If you call us out to your house, know that we are coming with gloves and mask on and we would like to make sure that you do the same. We don't want to offend, but we have to be healthy in order to serve this entire community. I've got twelve patrol officers that work specifically in the field...twelve. If you do the numbers, that is not very many. If somebody gets sick here and heaven forbids that it spreads, I've got no backup. So far, our officers are taking care of themselves. I have never seen a police car so antiseptic and fresh smelling!

I have been really proud of the way that our community has responded to this crisis.

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Don't be lured in!



There are many things in life that you can count on, and a con artist finding ways to make money off people's fears in a pandemic is one of them. Relentless in their efforts to deceive you, criminals are scanning through coronavirus information based websites and concocting plans to steal your money or your identity. As coronavirus scams rise, so do your chances of you or someone you know falling victim to identity theft, fraud or computer hacks.

With so much new information coming out about the COVID-19 virus, many people have been left with financial worries, product shortages or fears of catching the virus itself, and scammers are cashing in on that. They are targeting face mask and hand sanitizers, COVID-19 testing kits, stimulus checks and unemployment claims. There are many fraudsters who have even gotten into the business of selling "cures" or items that prevent you from getting the virus. For instance, the FDA is working overtime to stop businesses who are touting natural herb products and supplements that either treat the virus or help to keep you from getting it. There are also fraudsters who are either selling household products such as toilet paper or disinfectant sprays or cleaners that are priced way over the original asking price, or selling you products that you pay for and never receive. Others target you online by baiting you into opening an e-mail where the headline might read that "YOU HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19", or pop-up ads about coronavirus cures or updates that lead you to click on links that infect your computer with malware. Malware installs a virus into your computer where it can steal your personal information such as banking or credit card data and passwords. So, before you click or buy make sure you check and recheck before you give scammers access to your personal information or money. If you receive an e-mail from someone or some organization make sure to ask yourself some questions first. Did I write them and ask for information? Are they addressing me by my name? Why are they asking me for my account number or asking me to send money in non-traditional ways? Why are they asking me to click on another link? Have I done my homework and contacted the organization that the contactor says who they are using a different source of contact information other than what they have provided? Have I checked for site legitimacy by checking the URL for the same name as the organization that the e-mail is from? Did I look for logos that are blurred, too small or hard to read? Or, am I receiving e-mails or phone calls where I am being threatened with exposure, threats of arrest or threats of computer seizure where I am not able to access my files or do anything on my computer until I pay a ransom or fee? Are there misspellings in the headlines or grammar mistakes?

Scammers are out and ready to reel you in. If you receive calls, e-mails or letters about the coronavirus, please investigate before you send money or give away your personal information! Be suspicious of any websites asking for you to view their information and always check before you click. Leave being baited and lured to the fish and don't be a victim of scams!

The county is updating the community on the Coronavirus continuously. For information, please go to <https://www.spokanecounty.org/>

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How about dropping off a plate of food to a neighbor, or exchanging a dinner night once a week with another family in the area? Or, drop off some baked goods, flowers, vegetables from your garden to the neighbors.

What can you do or share that could be a help during the COVID-19 pandemic? No one really know how much longer that the stay-at-home order will stay in place, but we can get through this and we can get through it together. We are more than neighbors, we are a community that cares about one another, let it show!

Continued from page 2

Like everywhere else, I went around to all the stores in our area and...no toilet paper.

he same with the water, the same with the sanitizer and that kind of thing but we have had no disturbances in any kind of store. Crime is down in Cheney. The one thing that we did see is that we had a couple of social gatherings that we had to go break-up. But we are a college town and we know that the kids are getting anxious because they are stuck in little tiny apartments and dormitories. We can't allow situations for people to start gathering together when they should not. We are not going to write any tickets at this point because we would prefer that people self-police; physical distancing is what we are looking for and so, compliance is our aim. For heavens sakes, we don't want to be the bad guys here. We don't want you to go through this whole crisis and at the end and say; you know what, I remember that I got a ticket. You know, they won't remember all of the death and the illness that we have experienced here.

For the long term, I would like for them to continue to behave in the manner that they have in the past month or so. I told the Mayor because we have a video conference with all the departments. I said, by in large, I am really proud of the people in Cheney, they have really stepped up.



POLICE ~ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

August 4th, 2020

National Night Out is coming, and first responders, community leaders and businesses want to celebrate with you! NNO is a national and annual event that will be celebrating it's 36th year! This event promotes giving crime and drugs a going away party by encouraging neighborhoods nation wide to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening with neighbors and join forces with local first responders, community leaders and volunteers to rally against crime in our community! This is your time to gather the neighbors for an evening of great conversation, food, and fun activities! You can have bands, bake offs, BBQ's, ice cream socials, rent bounce houses, or have a parades! Or, consider adding a theme to your event and have a luau theme, 80's theme, sports party or western.

Look in the next newsletter coming out in mid-June for registration forms. You will be able to register your party with the County, Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Airway Heights and Cheney. If your registration form is turned in or postmarked by **July 10th**, your event will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following packages:

- 1) A party package for 25 people which will includes a NNO table cloth, cake, balloons, name tags and a hot dog dinner with chips and all the fixings!
- 2) Table cloth, cake for 25 people, balloons and name tags
- 3) Table cloth, balloons and name tags

All other party entries must be received by July 15th.

For questions, please contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at, (509) 385-3855, or e-mail at vdelcambremorris@spokanecounty.org



Feb, 2020– April, 2020 CRIMES BY SHERIFF DISTRICT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	26	Total
ADULT RAPE -SODOMY /FORCIBLE	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	11
ASSAULT Aggravated/ Simple	44	14	49	50	20	35	15	16	11	12	20	10	20	12	12	5	4	0	1	1	351
BURGLARY/ROBBERY	52	27	31	49	12	32	18	22	16	16	23	12	25	10	15	6	5	0	0	1	362
DRUG	53	39	13	18	9	16	7	14	1	3	4	8	10	1	6	5	3	0	0	0	210
FORGERY/ Fraud	17	10	9	6	12	16	5	2	3	6	11	6	18	5	3	1	5	1	0	0	136
STL VEH	13	21	10	23	10	15	10	6	4	6	3	4	9	3	4	2	0	1	0	0	144
THEFT	58	39	17	44	11	30	17	4	7	6	4	10	21	2	5	2	3	0	0	0	280
VEH PROWL	48	62	28	52	12	30	15	17	12	23	14	21	36	9	4	2	1	1	0	0	387
Total	286	204	157	242	86	174	88	82	54	72	79	72	141	42	51	24	21	3	1	2	1881

Total Population* 12,297 14,819 17,842 14,220 15,138 15,436 16,387 12,051 16,414 15,150 12,346 15,932 33,042 8,518 6,333 3,652 1,786 470 550 278 ***

*from Census Data

S.C.O.P.E. Stations & Their Corresponding Sheriff District

-District Maps available at www.spokanesherriff.org under Crime Prevention, Neighborhood Watch, Maps & Resources-

Central Valley (5) 509-928-3807
Deer Park (20) 509-276-7848
East (9) 509-922-3150
Edgecliff (1) 509-477-6345
Elk (15) 509-292-0188

EWU/Cheney (11) 509-559-5679
FAFB (12) 509-954-8485
Liberty Lake (9) 509-755-1143
Medical Lake (12) 509-299-7525
Mounted Patrol 509-263-3100

North (7 & 13) 509-477-6377
South (11) 509-842-7570
Trentwood (2) 509-927-9490
University (3) 509-477-2582
West Valley (8 & 21) 509-477-0629

Note: the cities of Rockford (22), Fairfield (23) are also part of District 10 and Spangle (26) is also part of District 11

Local Law Enforcement

Spokane County Sheriff*

Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich
Sheriff's Office Front Desk,
Located in the Public Safety Building
in downtown Spokane
Open M-F 8:30am-4:30pm
Excluding holidays
509-477-2240
www.spokanesherriff.org

Crime Prevention Deputies

City of Spokane Valley: 509-477-2592
All other County areas: 509-477-6044

Area Law Enforcement Agencies

City of Airway Heights Police
509-244-3707

City of Cheney Police
509-498-9235

City of Liberty Lake Police
509-755-1140

City of Medical Lake
(services provided by Sheriff's Office)
509-625-4100

City of Spokane Police
Desk
509-625-4100
www.spokanepolice.org/

City of Spokane Valley Police*
509-477-3300
www.spokanevalley.org/

FAFB 92nd Security Forces Squadron
509-247-5493

Spokane Int'l Airport Police
509-455-6429

Washington State Patrol, Spokane
509-227-6566 or 456-4101

U.S. Border Patrol
509-353-2747

Call for Help/Reporting

**Law Enforcement Help Line
509-477-5980**

Call 9-1-1 in an emergency
When you need IMMEDIATE
help from law enforcement

Call Crime Check, 456-2233

To report a crime, graffiti, an abandoned
vehicle and/or suspicious activity

You can also report on-line at:
www.spokanecounty.org/CrimeCheck
(Crime Check is available 24/7)

Crime Stoppers

[www.
crimestoppersinlandnorthwest.org](http://www.crimestoppersinlandnorthwest.org)
(Submit an anonymous tip)
1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

STOP Spokane Gangs

509-625-GANG (4264)
(Submit an anonymous tip)

STOP Graffiti

Report to Crime Check: 456-2233

Drug Hot Line

509-477-4778, to report drug activity

Traffic Hot Line

County 509-477-3222
Valley 509-477-3350

Runaway Help Line

509-477-6928

First Call For Help, Crisis Services

24-hour Regional Crisis Line 1-877-266-1818

WA. Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

Emergency Management Spokane

www.gsem.us
509-477-3046

*Organization is on Facebook
Facebook account not required to view pages

Other Contacts/Links

**LOCAL
S.C.O.P.E.**

Sheriff's Community Oriented
Policing Effort for Spokane County
509-477-3376

www.scopespokane.org

To start a Neighborhood Watch *

509-477-3055

Vdelcambremorrisspokaneheriff.org

Spokane C.O.P.S.*

Community Oriented Policing Services,
for The City of Spokane
509-625-3300

www.spokanecops.org/

G.S.S.A.C.

Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council
509-922-8383

www.gssac.org

SCRAPS*

Spokane County Regional
Animal Protection Service
509-477-2532

www.spokanecounty.org/SCRAPS/

HEART

Humane Evacuation Animal Rescue Team
Heartofspokane.org

www.Spokaneheart@gmail.com

Spokane Humane Society*

509-467-5235

www.spokanehumanesociety.org/

Spokane Law Enforcement Museum

509-625-3352

(A few items are displayed at the Spokane
Valley Mall Crime Prevention Office.)

STATE

Washington State
Crime Prevention Association
www.wscpaonline.org

The Neighborhood Watch Newsletters are
also available online at spokanesherriff.org.
Click on Crime Prevention and then click on
Neighborhood Watch.