

WELCOME TO OUR
Newsletter



Message from the Chief



Hello everyone! I am Brian Lawson, the Chief of Police here at Wytheville Community College, and I would like to welcome the faculty, staff, and students back to campus for the fall semester. It's wonderful to see so many students on campus this semester!

The Police Department wants to be an integral part of our campus community, so I would like to welcome everyone to the Wytheville Community College Police Departments monthly newsletter. In the newsletter we will include Safety Tips, Crime Alerts, Crime Trends, and other items we feel may help keep our campus community safe. Beginning with our next newsletter, we will also spotlight one officer per edition so you are familiar with those who are tasked with keeping you safe while on campus.

Through the month of September, the newsletter will run weekly in recognition of National Campus Safety Awareness month. This month would be an excellent time to bring attention to the issue of safety. National Campus Safety Awareness Month provides opportunities to encourage public conversation about violence prevention at our nation's colleges and universities. It also offers an opportunity to address the background of campus safety areas and to share information about safety programs.

In closing, please know the Police Department is here to assist you in any way we possibly can. Stop by our office, located at Carroll Hall Room 107, if you need assistance, or just to say hello!

National Campus Safety Awareness Month

In 2008, National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCASM) was unanimously approved by Congress to encourage a public conversation on important topics in violence prevention at our nation's colleges and universities each September. Every year college students across the nation become victims of stalking, sexual assault, robbery, homicide, and other crimes. College students who use illegal drugs and misuse prescription drugs are at risk for a substance use disorder and may commit or become a victim of drug-related crimes.

Wytheville Community College Police Department would encourage every student to use this month as a reminder to take your personal safety seriously while on campus and off campus. If you see something, say something! Please let WCC PD know of any suspicious activities while you are on campus.



Safety Tip

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO SAFETY!

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to be aware constantly of your surroundings. Do not walk around texting or wearing ear buds. Predators prey on inattentive people who are easily surprised. The risk is not only from predators. There are numerous cases of people texting or wearing ear buds and falling or stepping into traffic.

Here are some other suggestions to keep you safe:

- Avoid walking alone, especially at night. Walk with others as much as possible.
- Lock your vehicle at all times, both when parked and when you are driving.
- If possible, park at night in lighted areas near your classes or destination. If you would like an escort to your vehicle, call WCC PD and an officer will respond to your location.
- Walk to your vehicle with your keys in your hand and check the interior of your vehicle before entering it.
- Whenever you encounter someone, present a confident image.
- If confronted by an assailant, run if you can; do not fight unless your life is in jeopardy. No property is worth your personal injury.
- Keep your valuables such as computers, cell phones and textbooks under your direct control at all times. Leaving them unattended invites theft.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash, and keep your cash, ID and credit cards in your pocket.
- In the event of an active shooter, evacuate if possible and do not carry backpacks, handbags or any parcels which arriving police could suspect of hiding a weapon. If you shelter in place, do not cluster. Remain quiet and be prepared to fight for your life.
- If you are in danger, see something that concerns you, or seems out of place, call WCC PD immediately. Do not attempt to intervene directly.

Make Situational Awareness a habit and a part of your daily routine!

See Something-Say Something!

WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: Dial 911 Immediately

WCC PD: 276-223-4713