



Alaska-owned and  
operated since 1974

May Issue:

- 1 Local Business
- 2 Spring Clean Up
- 3 Smoke Alarm Facts
- 4 Around Alaska

#### Update Policy:

Changes must be made in writing. A telephone followup to verify your identify with your passcode must occur *before* changes take effect.

Plan accordingly for contact list updates, or your personal contact information.

Changes can be made via mail, email, the website, or at the main office in Anchorage.

## Local Business

We have all seen the Buy Local! stickers at the farmer's market or in the window of a small business. It certainly feels good to support friends and neighbors by shopping there; but what about the bottom line? Is it worth it to pay a little more and keep your dollars in Alaska?

According to economists who study such things, the answer is yes. "The New Economics Foundation compared what happens when people buy produce at a supermarket vs. a local farmer's market, and found that twice the money stayed in the community when folks bought locally. 'That means those purchases are twice as efficient in terms of keeping the local economy alive,' says author and NEF researcher David Boyle." (<http://content.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1903632,00.html>).

Money spent at your locally-owned

business is then spent locally for things like supplies, advertising, rent, and payroll.

Across the country, and certainly in Alaska, the local economy needs bolstering: not because there is too little money being brought in, but because too little money stays in the community.

Whether it's a security alarm system or a pair of shoes, consumers cite convenience (think online shopping and big box stores) and cost as factors that contribute to where they spend their money. But considering that dollars spent locally also contribute to jobs for friends and neighbors, *where* our money is spent influences our communities in many ways.

As a locally owned and operated company, we at Guardian appreciate your business. Guardian has been offering security services and employing Alaskans since 1974. We are here to serve you!

# Spring Clean Up

Daylight, daylight, and more daylight. Spring is here and summer will soon follow. We are all enjoying warmer temperatures, safer driving, and the start of gardening season in Alaska.

We are also experiencing more people out later at night, because of the extra daylight and warm temperatures. Which can mean, unfortunately, an increase in crime. Remembering that criminals don't like to be seen, don't like to spend a lot of time, and want an easy target will help you identify weak points in your security and fix them.

Clean up brush around the house and trim back shrubbery and trees that could easily hide a lurking criminal. During summer, criminals no longer have the cover of darkness for a break-in attempt, but most people sleep at night, and possessions that are visible from the street are still subject to being stolen. It is also possible for a home or neighborhood to be cased, so be sure high-priced items aren't visible from the windows.

During the spring clean-up of your property, secure snowmachines in a shed or garage if possible. If your machines have to be stored outside, chain them to a tree or to another snowmachine, or to the trailer if it is stored on the trailer. And of course, remove the keys. Likewise, dirtbikes and ATVs are commonly parked in the yard, are easily stolen, and should be secured when not in use.

Try not to announce on social media that you're headed to the cabin or fishing for the weekend. It is really quite simple for someone with questionable motives to see that announcement and consider it an opportunity to help themselves.

If you haven't done it lately, test your security alarm system. This begins with a call to Central Monitoring so they know you're conducting a test. Complete instructions to test each component of your system, including door and window alarms, can be found on our website (<https://www.guardiansecuritysys.com/support/testing-your-system/>). You can always call our office for help.

## ***Drivers Beware***

According to the National Highway Safety Administration, Memorial Day weekend is the third deadliest weekend for alcohol-related fatalities. (First is Fourth of July, and second, Labor Day). 40% of traffic fatalities will involve impaired or drunk driving. In other words, preventable.

If you are on the road Memorial Day weekend, exercise due caution; not all drivers are sober. Teach children never to get in a vehicle with an impaired driver, even a relative. Avoid traveling if possible, and of course, if you use alcohol, be the person who makes it home safely by drinking responsibly. Protect yourself and your loved ones and have a great weekend.

Anchorage  
274-5275

Mat-Su Valley  
376-4700

Kenai  
Peninsula  
283-5652

Fairbanks  
459-5275

Statewide  
1-800-478-189  
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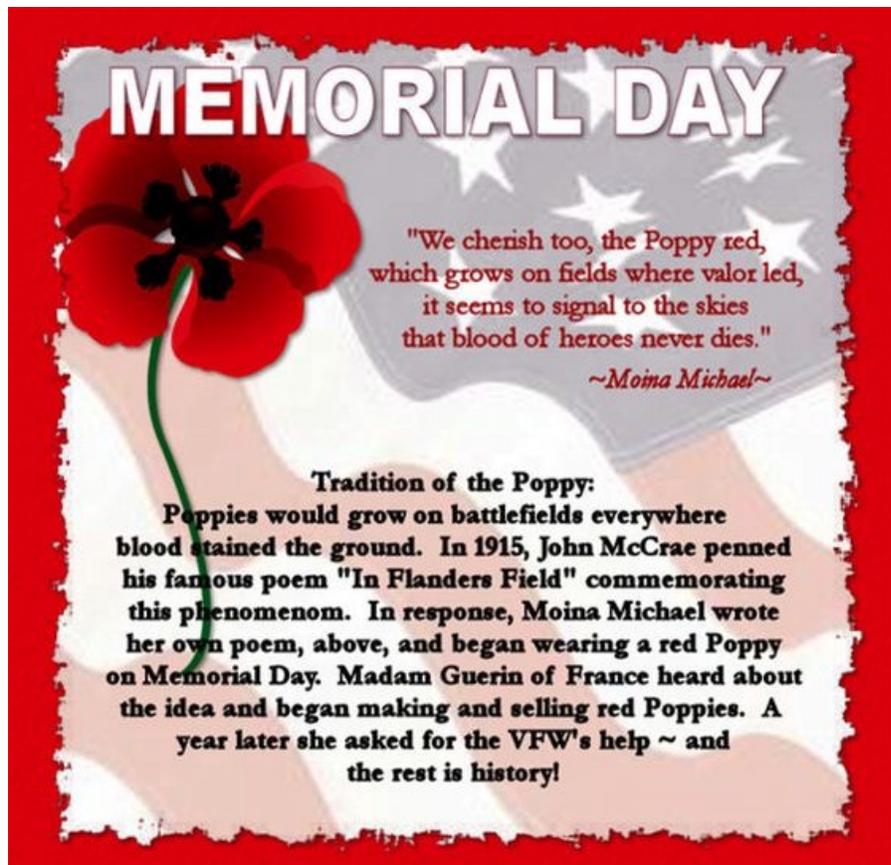
## Smoke Alarm Facts

Smoke alarms save lives. In fact, having a working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a house fire by half. But what about the sensitive alarm or inconvenient placement that causes the alarm to go off every time you make a grilled cheese sandwich? Who hasn't heard that piercing sound and felt like yanking the smoke alarm right out? If you or a family member tends to unplug or disconnect smoke detectors because they go off when there is no actual fire, consider the following information.

More than 2/3 of house fire deaths occurred in homes in which there were no smoke detectors or smoke detectors were not working properly. Nuisance alarm sounding was the main reason most smoke detectors were disconnected or had no batteries installed. Cooking is the #1 cause of nuisance alarm sounding, but also the #1 cause of house fires. Heating is the #2 cause of house fires.

Further, smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. There are now smoke alarms on the market with a "hush button" that silences an unnecessary alarm and desensitizes the detector for a short period of time, no more than 10 minutes. This is long enough to set up a fan to blow cooking smoke away from the sensors!

If nuisance alarm sounds have prompted you to disconnect your detector, consider purchasing a product with a hush feature. Better safe than sorry. Plug detectors in and keep batteries fresh.



## Ten Ways to Celebrate Mother's Day

(May 14 this year)

1. Breakfast in bed (Here's an easy waffle recipe! <http://www.bhg.com/recipe/pancakes-waffles/waffles/>)
2. Family outing
3. Homemade card
4. Bath salts for a relaxing bath (Recipe: <http://www.bhg.com/holidays/mothers-day/crafts/scented-bath-salts/>)
5. Spa day for Mom. Send her out for a pedicure!
6. Mother's Day gift certificates. Do chores with a smile!
7. Poem (Here are a few: <http://www.bhg.com/holidays/mothers-day/cards/mothers-day-poems/>)
8. Trip to the park. Toss a frisbee around or walk the dog.
9. Looking through photo albums. Look back to when it all started.
10. Organize a picnic.

However you choose to spend Mother's Day this year, be assured that we honor all mothers and their contribution in our lives. We hope that you have a well deserved day of joy and family. Happy Mother's Day from all of us at Guardian Security Systems!

### Around Alaska

**Hot Rods for a Cause Car and Cycle Show**, Anchorage, Arc of Anchorage, 2211 Arca Drive. May 13. 12-4p. Free. This family-friendly event will feature local craft vendors and food trucks on sight. Proceeds support vulnerable populations during the holiday season. For more information call Gloria at (907) 726-7102.

**Medicinal Plant Workshop**. Eagle River Nature Center, May 21. \$50. Learn to identify and harvest local plants that have traditionally been used for medicinal uses. Learn to make salves, tinctures, extracts, and more. Preregistration is required. Learn more at [www.ernc.org](http://www.ernc.org).

**Fairbanks First Friday**, downtown Fairbanks, May 5, 5-8p. Gallery openings featuring work by local artists. Call (907) 452-8671 for more.

**Clash of the Culinary Kings**, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, May 13, 5:30-8:30p. Tickets \$50, \$25 students. This fundraiser includes appetizers, beer and wine. The event features four chefs preparing an appetizer and entrée using mystery box ingredients, and then two finalists will prepare a dessert. Call Linda Swarner (907) 262-3111 for more information.