Columbia Neighborhood Watch

YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors OUR RESPONSIBILITY get involved today

March , 2017

Message from the CNW Presdent

Just a note to say "Hi" to all of you. Neighborhood Watch is a program that only succeeds when people like you participate. So, thank you for being involved. A special thanks to all of the Area Coordinators and Block Captains. You are the force that keeps your neighbors involved, especially when you reach out to those new neighbors that have just moved in. I'm happy and proud to be living in Columbia. It's a great city because of people like you who care about your neighborhoods and the city.

You may have noticed that this newsletter has come directly to your email from Columbia Neighborhood Watch (CNW). We recently began using a service which allows us to send out mass emails and reach out to all our members, which helps lighten the load on our Block Captains. We hope you enjoy receiving this quarterly update from CNW.

One of our goals is to reach out to as many people in Columbia as possible. Within the past year we were involved in several events around the city, which included having a booth at Earth Day, the Columbia Police Department Outreach event at Indian Hills Park and the Senior Show at the Parkade Plaza. Of course, we still have six training events per year at various locations around the city to educate our citizens about neighborhood watch and assist them in starting and maintaining the program in their neighborhoods. Our next training is scheduled for March 7th at 7 PM at Gentry Middle School. If you have neighbors who haven't attended a training, please encourage them to do so. Also, if it has been a few years since you attended, please consider joining us. I think you will find it a good refresher plus we have incorporated some new information in our presentation.

Once again, thank you for your participation. Please stay involved and stay safe.

Irwin

Highlights from Officer Bishop

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, law enforcement officers, supporters, families, and friends will come together in Columbia at the first annual Molly's Miles 5K. Named in memory of fallen Columbia Police Officer Molly Suzanne Thomas Bowden, the event aims to honor the surviving families and affected co-workers of Missouri law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Missouri Chapter Concerns of Police Survivors.

Molly's Miles 5K is scheduled to kick off at 8:00 a.m. on April 8th at the Molly Bowden Memorial Park, 900 West Nifong Boulevard. The event features a family friendly 3.1 mile course for walking or running participants. Each course finisher will be awarded a medal at the finish line, along with distinctive awards being given to the top three overall male and female runners. Registration costs are $30 for adults and $20 for children ages 12 and under. Registration includes a long sleeve shirt, a finisher medal for course finishers, race bib, chip timing, and live results. To register today, visit www.MollysMilesRun.com.

Spring Crime Prevention Tips..

With Spring comes an increase in crime.
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- Always keep your home's doors and windows locked when you leave your home, even if you leave for a short period.
- ¨Secure all lawn and gardening equipment in a locked shed or garage.
- ¨Take the time to secure your bicycles.
- ¨Keep your garage door closed and locked anytime you are not using them.
- ¨Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards.
- DO NOT allow solicitors into your home.
- ¨Be aware of home improvements scams. Some solicitors or contractors who offer to repair at a discounted fee may request cash up front.

CoMoGives.com

Fund Raising Campaign

CoMoGives Fund Raising Results

A special thank you to those of you that made a donation to us on our inaugural fund raising event. Board member Herb Watchinski chaired this effort. His goal was to get $1000 in donations and we achieved that by receiving just over $1000.

Smart phone apps that can save your life in an emergency

In emergencies there are smartphone apps with a distress signal tool at your disposal. You can download these apps and use now in times of dire need. Here are the top five picks:

Important: Most of these apps use your phone's GPS and location tracking, which may impact and decrease its battery life.

1. Silent Beacon: Emergency Alert System

Silent Beacon, available for iOS and Android, is described by its creators as "the emergency alert system for the digital age." It is a free app and service that uses GPS-tracking to send your location to a custom set of contacts, including 911 or emergency services, through a "distress message."

This distress message can be sent with a touch of the app's button during emergencies when the beacon is activated. Silent Beacon is simple, straightforward and for a free app, it does its job well - send a message and your location via text notification in a jiffy. You never know, that may be enough to save you from trouble one day.

2. bSafe: Personal Safety App

bSafe is another emergency alert app system for iOS and Android that will notify up to four selected contacts, called "Guardians" by the app, in an event of an emergency.

bSafe's free version lets you send out a distress message by hitting its SOS button. This notifies your "Guardians" of the emergency via text message and provides them with your location. bCall's premium service costs $20 a year with a special $30 promo price for a two-year subscription.

3. Companion: Mobile Personal Safety

If you are looking for a free safety alert app that has real-time location tracking, try the iOS and Android app Companion.

Similar to other safety apps, Companion lets you pick your own contacts as your emergency alert recipients.

Smart phone apps cont'

These "companions," as the app calls them, will then receive a text message with a link to a web-page showing a real-time map of your location.
If your arrival is delayed or you divert from your trip's path, your headphones get unplugged or if your phone's sensors detect a sudden change in your speed, the app will ask you if everything's OK. You'll have 15 seconds to confirm to the app that you're fine and if not, it will proceed to notify your "companions." The app will also give a quick way to call the police in an event of an emergency.

4. LifeLine Response - Panic Button and Safety App

While other emergency alert apps require them to be opened to send out a distress message, Lifeline Response does it a little bit differently - it is activated by holding your finger on your phone's screen.
Once the app is activated and your finger is removed from the screen, it starts a series of countdown timers that culminates in a call from LifeLine Response's Verification Center.
If the emergency is verified by the center either via verbal confirmation, by a silent alarm code or by non-reply, LifeLine contacts 911 dispatchers directly and provides them your GPS coordinates. Your LifeLine contacts will likewise receive the same emergency information via text and email.
LifeLine Response's service is not free. Monthly subscriptions start at $5 but it offers a free 14-day trial.
The app is available for both iOS and Android.

5. Kitestring: SMS based safety alert system

Instead of activating the service's emergency signal through an app, Kitestring is a free text and web-based service that checks on you by sending text messages at set intervals. You then reply to the message or check in on its website to tell Kitestring that you're OK.
If for some reason you fail to check in, Kitestring will send your pre-selected contacts a customized text message.
Since Kitestring is purely text-based, it doesn't have an app and the service can be used even on non-smartphones as long as SMS is available. To activate it, just head over to its website to sign up. After signing up with your phone number and setting up your contacts, you can start a "trip" (the time KiteString is going to check on you) by texting Kitestring's number a duration. Kitestring will then check on you for that duration and will notify your contacts once your trip is over.

Kitestring is a good option since it's free and its novel way of checking on you instead of you sending out a signal is something that other alert systems don't have. It lacks any location sending feature but it's good to use in a pinch.

Training Dates:

Tuesday March 7, 2017 at Gentry Middle School - 4200 Bethel St

(Registration at 6:45, Training starts at 7 pm)

Tuesday April 11, 2017 at Lang Middle School—2201 East Smiley Ln

 (Registration at 6:45, Training starts at 7 pm)