



YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors
OUR RESPONSIBILITY
get involved today

Columbia Neighborhood Watch

June , 2017

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Your Watch Board after the 2016 Annual Meeting with the Proclamation that was presented by Columbia's Mayor.

Your Watch Board Welcomes new Board member **Mary Kay James**. She is and Army veteran and will be an asset to our mission.

Speaking of the Board, several members of the Board volunteered to help at the first annual **Molly's Miles 5K Run**. Our Police liaison was on the committee putting this event together and even ran the course. **We currently have an opening for another Board Member. If interested, contact us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com**

The **National Night Out** event will be in August again this year. More information will be coming on our website as well as the City of Columbia's website.

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Highlights from Officer Bishop

Columbia Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Related services

Columbia Police Department - <http://www.como.gov/police/>

911 -- Emergencies, crimes in progress

573-442-6131 or 311 -- Report suspicious activity, accidents, any non-emergency requiring a timely response, unlicensed or abandoned vehicles on public streets.

Report a tip anonymously - Crime Stoppers 573-875-8477

Columbia Neighborhood Watch: <http://www.columbianeighborhoodwatch.org>

Email: col.neighwatch@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Police Liaison -- 573-874-7426

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) -- <http://www.como.gov/neighborhoods/>

Problems including building code compliance, rental property inspections, weeds, abandoned or unlicensed vehicles on private property can be reported **online or call 573-817-5050**

Miscellaneous:

573-874-7325 -- streetlight problems (City Electric)

573-449-4181-- for streetlight or power issues (Boone Electric Cooperative)

573-874-6292 -- Missing or damaged street signs

573-874-6291 -- Residential Trash Pickup

573-449-1888 -- Animal Control

Neighborhood Awareness: The Key To Crime Prevention

A good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. This is particularly true at this time of the year when various criminals and con artists use the warm weather to take advantage of residents, particularly the elderly. Watchful eyes in the neighborhood can spot criminals and alert police and the community to their presence.

Keep a check on your neighbors. If, for example, you see an elderly resident in conversation with a stranger, politely inquire about what is going on. If residents see strangers sizing up their neighbor's home, that could also be a sign something is wrong. A call to 911 will get an officer to the scene to check things out. Involvement such as this builds stronger bonds between neighbors, and helps maintain safe neighborhoods

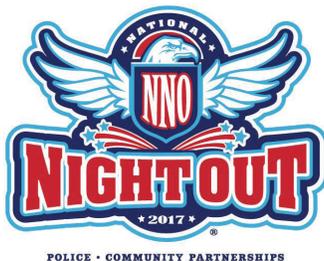
Summer and Vacation tips:

- Do not announce impending vacations of family events via social media or in any gathering where you cannot control who hears or views such information. (You can always report on such things after the fact.)
- Make sure your house looks lived in from the street while you are away.
 - Put lights and perhaps a radio on timers.
 - Don't let mail or newspapers accumulate. Either stop delivery or ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up for you.
 - Motion activated exterior lighting has been proven effective.
 - Contact the Police Department for a **"Watch In Passing"** (WIP). To request a WIP go to <https://www.como.gov/CMS/wip/wip.php> online. Allow three business days to process your request. If you have difficulties or will be leaving in less than three days you may call 573-874-7652 to submit your request. In addition to the drive by check with the WIP, if there is a crime in your area they will check your home for signs of a break in.

When doing yard work or activities in the back yard, keep your garage door closed so you don't give thieves an opportunity to observe for later or to take items while you are busy.

Remember, for the most part, thieves are opportunistic and look for quick and easy access. When access is denied or even just delayed, it is much less likely that your property will become a target.

We are asking all Captains and Co-Captains to send any changes in information of your Watch Group to us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com. Changes such as they have moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.... This information will help us keep our Roster up to date. **Thank You in advance.**



Mark your calendars for National Night Out on August 1st. More information will follow closer to the date so you can register your event with the Police Department. Police Officers along with Columbia Neighborhood Watch Board members will try to visit each event that is registered.

“Roofer repair”/odd jobs” scam is going around Columbia

Common home repair scams this time of year: roof repair/sealing, tree removal, drive-way repair/sealing Beware of the following:

- Person offering to do repairs just stops by stating they were doing work for a neighbor or they noticed some damage and wanted to offer their services
- They request payment in cash or check payable to an individual
- They request full payment upfront
- They try to give the repair a sense of urgency. i.e. you will be fined by the city if you don't fix it today, you will suffer more damage If you don't fix it right away, I have to do the work today, it's the only time I have, I'm already booked the rest of the month

Things you should do:

- Ask for references and verify
- Check the business out on the Better Business Bureau's website
- Get other estimates for the cost of the repair
- Check with insurance provider to see if the repair is covered
- Check with the city to see if they are in any violations with the city if they don't complete the repair
- Verify what the company is stating needs repaired actually needs repaired (it is really hard to tell a roof needs work without getting on the roof to see if there is damage, especially if they are saying it is hail damage which is really common this time of year)
- Only pay 1/3 to 1/2 of the repair cost up front. Legit businesses do not require full payment upfront because the customer has to have some assurance the work will be completed. If repairs are paid for upfront to an individual, the customer has no recourse with the business to prove the work was paid for and not completed. The business will simply say it is not their fault and you have to go after the individual that took the money.

Trainings this year

So far this year we have held seven training orientations, for a total of 62 new members. We also had a number of current member attend to get updated information or brought a group to the training. Three trainings were open to the public and four were “on site” trainings for groups that requested a private training. We have also trained several people who live in the county and sent that information to the Sheriff's Department. We even had a person from Booneville attend a training.
