



YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors
OUR RESPONSIBILITY
get involved today

Columbia Neighborhood Watch

June , 2018

Board of Directors

Irwin Schneider, President

Elaine Heckenkamp, Vice President

Jeff Hempstead, Secretary

Sandy Perley, Treasurer

Ron Bartels

Herb Watchinski Jr

Justin Gates

Jacob Novak

Officer Jason McClintic , Police
Liaison

Maria Phelps

Mary Wozny, Ex Officio Member

SOLICITORS AND CANVASSERS

It shall be unlawful for any solicitor or canvasser, as defined in section 13-226 hereof, to engage in such business within the corporate limits of the city without first obtaining a permit.

Sec. 13-231. - Exhibition of permit.

Solicitors and canvassers are required to exhibit their business permit cards at the request of any citizen.

Sec. 13-235. - Exemptions from article.

All recognized charitable organizations or any other bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, social welfare or religious organization and newsboys shall be exempt from the terms of this article.

More information can be found at this link: https://library.municode.com/MO/columbia/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIICOOR_CH13LIPEMIBURE_ARTVIIIISOCA

The above information is present at the request of one of your fellow Neighborhood Watch members. Should any one have a suggestion or request for this newsletter, just email us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com.

Several members of the Board volunteered to help at the annual **Molly's Miles 5K Run**. Our Police liaison was on the committee putting this event together and even ran the course.

The **National Night Out** event will be August 7th this year. More information will be coming on our website as well as the City of Columbia's website

Inside this issue:

CPD's Liaisons	2
Summer tips	3
Thing a Burglar won't tell you	4
Home tips	5



Highlights from Officer McClintic

Keep up your yard, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

A neighborhood with mowed lawns, flowers, and freshly painted homes looks like it's cared for, and this alone can help deter crime. A well-kept yard also provides fewer places for suspicious persons to take cover. If there is a certain open lot or abandoned home that is an eyesore, work together as a neighborhood and with your local Office of Neighborhood Services to help clean up weeds, remove abandoned vehicles and help beautify the area.

Improve the lighting on your street.

Street Lamps are not the only way to do this. Consider the value in turning on your porch lights in the evenings and install motion-sensor lights in the backs or sides of the house so potential intruders don't have the darkness to hide in.

Encourage outdoor activity.

Go on walks with your neighbors, work in your yard, and enjoy the Springtime moderate temperatures. Organizing a neighborhood cookout can encourage people to feel more comfortable spending time out in the neighborhood as well, thus improving the feeling of community near and around your home.

If there is a problem with fireworks in your area you can report it to the police by calling the NON-Emergency phone number 442-6131 or 311. Lets all has a safe Holiday.
Your Neighborhood Watch Board,

**FIREWORKS PROHIBITED
WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

City Ordinance Section 16-234.

Every person who shall possess, use, burn, explode or set off any firecracker, torpedo, bomb, rocket, pinwheel, fire balloon, Roman candles or any other firecracker or fireworks other than a sparkler within the city shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.
(exceptions provided in paragraph (b) of this section)

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 of 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.

Captains and Co-Captains

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.**

Training Dates:

August - 7th at Boone Electric 1413 Rangeline Street

July - 23rd at the Columbia Public Library 100 W. Broadway

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

THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever to look like a crook.
 2. The two things I hate most are loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
 3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
 4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
 5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs, laptops, I-Pads, cell phones or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
 6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
 7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
 8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.
-

Scammers Target Medicare Beneficiaries

For our retired members:

A law passed in 2015 requires Medicare to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. Beneficiaries will begin to receive their new cards in May, and the rollout will continue into 2019. This is a good move, since Social Security numbers are the key to identity theft, and having them displayed on Medicare cards has long presented risk. Unfortunately, scammers have come up with ways to take advantage of this change.

- Scammers claiming to be from Medicare call and ask you to verify your Social Security number in order to receive your new card. Scammers call to collect a "processing fee" in order for you to receive your new Medicare card.

Medicare will NEVER ask beneficiaries to confirm their Social Security number or ask for money in order to receive the new Medicare card.

- If you receive a call like this, hang up and report it to Medicare at 1-800-633-4427. If your address has changed, you'll need to report it in order to receive your new card. Contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When it comes to fraud, vigilance is our number one weapon. You have the power to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. Please share this alert with friends and family.
-

Home Burglaries

The facts are chilling! Burglars ransack homes every 15 seconds on average, according to an explosive report by the Fairfax News. These crimes are not isolated or rare. They don't only occur in "bad" neighborhoods or in the middle of the night.

In fact, nearly two-thirds of home burglaries happen during the day, when your kids and grandchildren are at school and you're at work. That's when homes are sitting vulnerable and your neighbors might not blink when they see someone by your house - after all, we all get boxes.

3 tips to protect your home

1. **Close your blinds**

Home security experts agree that you can take a few simple steps to convince burglars to move onto an easier target. For starters, close your window blinds and shades. Most burglars aren't going to risk getting injured or arrested. You can make them think you're home by locking your windows and closing your blinds and curtains.

Note: Criminals get away with \$1,600 worth of belongings, on average, when they burglarize a home.

2. **Lock your garage**

Lock your garage door every time you leave your house. It's so easy to forget to do this, right? There are days when your whole family seems to be in and out of the garage. It's nonstop. You might have a keypad so your children can get into the house after school. Do they always close it behind them? Of course, an open garage door is an invitation for burglars to walk right in. Do you know that 30 percent of burglaries occur without a forced entry, typically through an unlocked door or window?

3. **Simply install a home security system**

The facts are clear. Homes with security systems are up to three times less likely to get broken into than unprotected homes -- injuries and worse are harsh realities, too.