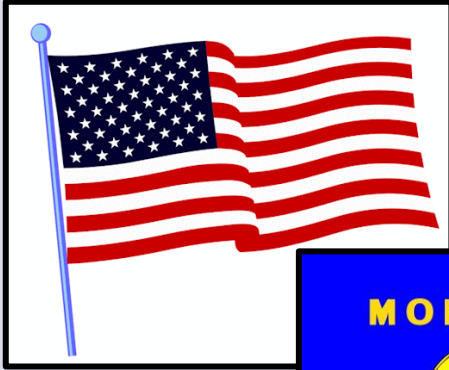


Missoula County Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 2Q2023

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**Missoula Neighborhood Watch:
*Looking out for each other!***

Missoula Neighborhood
Watch focuses on
1) observation and
reporting of suspicious
activity and 2) training
citizens in ways to make
their homes and
neighborhoods safer.



Reach out to Missoula Neighborhood
Watch for more information.

Email:

missoulaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/MissoulaNW> or
search "Missoula Neighborhood Watch"

USPS mail:

MNW, P.O. Box 1334, Lolo, MT 59847



When and How to Contact Emergency Services

When to call 911:

Anytime you need to speak with an Officer to report a crime or a suspicious activity that is currently occurring.

When to contact the City Police Desk (24hr) (406) 552-6300:

To make a report or speak with an Officer about a minor and not in progress incident which occurred within city limits. (You might be transferred to dispatch 911, which is normal).

The above was provided by Officer Whitney Bennett of the Missoula Police Department.



Tips for Maintaining Personal Safety

- **Trust your gut, if something feels wrong, strange, not right, etc., there is something wrong.**
- **Invest in a doorbell camera or video surveillance.**
- **Do not answer the door for people you do not know.**
- **Do not allow people you don't know into your house.**
- **Do not walk in public with money in your hand.**
- **Have your house key in hand when you get to your door.**
- **Use your key fob to unlock your car just before you get to the door.**
- **Give a spare house key to a trusted friend or neighbor.**
- **Keep your doors locked, even if you are home.**
- **If you use a hide-a-key, put it in a place that will be difficult for someone to find.**

The above was provided by Officer Whitney Bennett of the Missoula Police Department.



Tips for Maintaining Financial Security - 1

Financial Security:

- **Don't answer phone calls from people/numbers you do not know.**
- **Install nuisance call blocker on your cell phone (go to cell store and ask for help).**
- **If you answer and you do not know them, hang up. Its okay to be rude to them.**
- **Do not provide or verify any personal information to anyone you did not call (date of birth, social security number, bank account numbers, credit cards).**
- **Do not click on links in e-mails. Type in the web address of the company and go to their page from their website.**
- **You did not win the lottery, contest, etc. if you did not purchase a ticket.**

The above was provided by Officer Whitney Bennett of the Missoula Police Department.



Tips for Maintaining Financial Security - 2

Financial Security continued:

- **Business or government agencies will NEVER accept payment, for anything, with gift card numbers over the phone.**
- **Business or government agencies will NEVER ask you to mail cash.**
- **If your grandchild calls in the middle of the night and needs bail money, let them sit in jail overnight. (It is not really them calling)**
- **If someone tells you that you are not allowed to hang up on them, they are lying. Hang-up!**
- **You never have to pre-pay a fee/tax for winning a prize, contest, lottery.**
- **The US government is not going to give you money for free (except those two times for COVID).**

The above was provided by Officer Whitney Bennett of the Missoula Police Department.



Tips for Maintaining Financial Security - 3

Financial Security continued:

- **If someone is persistent and demands an immediate answer, tell them you need to discuss it with your son/daughter, who happens to be a Police Officer. If they still won't relent, hang-up!**
- **Use phrases for passwords. i.e. HolyCow!1, MammaMia!1. They are easier to remember, harder to guess, and the capitalization, number and punctuation make them difficult to crack.**
- **Use different passwords for each different purpose i.e. Netflix, bank, credit card etc.**
- **It is okay to say no to people, if you have questions or doubts, call one of the emergency numbers and ask!**

The above was provided by Officer Whitney Bennett of the Missoula Police Department.