



National Night Out Newsletter 2007

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2007

National Night Out is here again!

Plymouth is celebrating another successful National Night Out (NNO). After 16 years, NNO continues to grow and is one of our most successful crime prevention programs! This year over 125 neighborhood parties signed-up to “throw crime a going away party” by encouraging neighbors to lock up their homes, get to know each other, and continue to look out for each other the rest of the year. Our focus this year is educating people about personal safety, including the new **AMBER Stick** Child ID device. Free **File of Life** cards, **Project Childsafe** gun locks, and a limited number of auto theft prevention devices are available. In addition, police are making home safety checks to make sure people are locking up and fire personnel are checking smoke detectors to make sure they work. It is always a fun and educational night for all!



This year, Plymouth is holding its first ever NNO Kick-Off party at Fire Station 3. Hundreds of people are expected to stop by to pick up their NNO supplies, meet Plymouth Police and Fire personnel, learn about safety, and talk to representatives from different public safety agencies!

NNO is held the first Tuesday of August annually. If you would like to be on the mailing list for next year's NNO, call Sara at 763-509-5198. Information / registration packets for 2008 will be mailed in April.

Preventing Theft from Vehicle

Car break-ins are one of the most common crimes in Plymouth and the metro area. Car break-ins can occur anywhere: at home, when shopping, at the park, or at the gym. Why is this crime so common? More people are installing expensive stereo and other electronic equipment, making cars more attractive targets. In addition, people tend to leave other items in their car that may encourage car prowlers. However, there are some easy steps you can take to reduce your chance of becoming a victim.

What you can do:

- **Do not leave valuables in your car.** Any electronics (ipods, lap tops, stereos, etc.), small change, tools, purses, and briefcases are all tempting to thieves. The loss of a stereo may be inconvenient, but the loss of a purse or computer could open you up to a more frustrating crime: identity theft.
- **If you must leave valuables in your car, place them out of sight.** Criminals know hiding things under the seat is common. The safest place for valuables is in the trunk. Place items in the trunk **prior** to arriving at your destination. Criminals often watch and see where people are putting their valuables.
- **Lock your car.** Thieves target easy victims. Locking your car makes it harder for a crime to occur.
- **Park in well-lit, easily observable areas.** This increases the chance of vandals or thieves being seen. Criminals prefer to work in dark, obscured places.
- **Immediately report suspicious activity.** If you see people lurking around cars, hiding from passing traffic, or looking into cars, call 9-1-1 right away!

By taking a few simple steps, you can reduce your chance of becoming a victim of this common crime.



Premise Security Survey

Have you ever wondered how safe your home is? Residential burglaries are pretty common. However, there are many easy ways to increase the safety of your home. For crime prevention suggestions that are customized to your home and your needs, the Plymouth Police Department offers **free** premise security surveys. An officer will come to your home to discuss your safety concerns and security needs. A complimentary written report will be issued, detailing the results of the survey. The survey takes approximately one hour. It's an easy way to make your home safe! To schedule an appointment, call 763-509-5147.

AMBER Stick

Getting police accurate information fast is essential in finding missing persons. The AMBER stick is a portable electronic (flash drive) identification device that can be carried on a keychain that enables police to download the profile of a missing person within seconds. The AMBER stick was created for missing children, but it can be used for all members of the family, especially vulnerable adults. The AMBER stick is available for \$20. To reserve your AMBER stick, call 763-509-5198.

Fraud Stop

Average loss to check fraud: \$1,100
Average loss to identity theft: \$2,000
Average loss to "Nigerian scams": \$3,864
Staying alert: Priceless

Are you wondering if that email (or letter or phone call) you got asking for money, personal information, or telling you about possible financial windfall is true? Are you trying to stay on top of the new cons and frauds out there? If so, check out: www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com. The site is hosted by the FBI and US Postal Inspection Service and has updated information on current internet frauds, victim's stories, and other valuable information to help keep you from becoming the victim of a fraud!

Along for the Ride
Tune into Cable Channel 16 Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.,
to see our 1/2 hour informational television show and
get to know the Plymouth Police Department in a whole new way!

Home Burglaries: Reduce the Opportunity

Criminals usually enter in homes the easiest way they can: through unlocked doors or open overhead garage doors! Home burglaries often occur during the day, although night-time thefts from garages are also common. Please keep a watchful eye out and call **9-1-1 immediately** if you see or hear anything suspicious. Some examples of suspicious activity are:

- People lurking around homes, hiding from passing traffic, or looking into cars
- A car stopped in the street, running, in front of a home, with a driver waiting inside
- People sneaking into garages
- The sound of breaking glass

Several steps you can take to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of home burglary are: keeping your overhead garage door **CLOSED** at all times, locking all exterior doors to your home, including the garage service door and sliding glass doors (even when you are home), and keeping ground floor windows closed and locked when not home.

Emergency: **9-1-1** Non-emergency: **763-525-6210** Crime Information Line: **763-509-5177**

If you have any comments about this newsletter, please contact Officer Angela Haseman at the Plymouth Police Department, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55447, 763-509-5147 or at ahaseman@ci.plymouth.mn.us. Thank you!