



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2010 Number 2

Plymouth Police Department joins Crime Stoppers

The Plymouth Police Department has always recognized the importance of community involvement in fighting crime. Programs like Neighborhood Watch and Night to Unite are invaluable in keeping our community safe. However, law enforcement also understands that some people are afraid to come forward and report information they may have about crimes. That is why the police department has joined Crime Stoppers of Minnesota.

The Crime Stoppers program has been around for over 30 years. Crime Stoppers of Minnesota is a *separate and independent organization from law enforcement* for the purpose of gathering information that may not otherwise be available to police, but can help solve crimes. The motto of crime stoppers is "Crime doesn't pay...we do!"

If someone has information about a crime, he or she can call, text, or submit the information to Crime Stoppers of Minnesota on the computer. No matter how small or insignificant the information may seem, it may be the one piece of the puzzle that police need to solve a crime. Crime Stoppers forwards all tips to the appropriate law enforcement agency. *If* the information leads to the arrest and prosecution of the suspect, the tipster is eligible to receive a cash reward up to \$1,000.

Crime Stoppers is *completely anonymous*, so no one can know who submitted the tip, which helps protect the tipster from retaliation. Crime Stoppers works by assigning a unique Tip ID number to each call, text, or web tip. The tipster is responsible for writing down this unique ID number. They can then check back with Crime Stoppers of Minnesota periodically to see if their tip received a reward. If the tip is eligible for a reward, the tipster can request how and when they would like to receive their reward.

Crime Stoppers is only for information about crimes that have already been committed. *For a crime in progress, please dial 9-1-1 immediately!* We need your help in the fight against crime. If you have information about a crime, call, text, or click Crime Stoppers of Minnesota! Your tip could solve a crime, help bring resolution to victims and their families, and earn you up to \$1,000 per successful tip!

☛ **Extra, extra, extra!** If you need a police officer to respond to your location for *any* reason, dial 9-1-1.



To submit a tip by phone:

Call 1-800-222-TIPS. The call is free and calls are answered 24/7. The call line includes a language option for English or Spanish; however, the call line also is able to translate other languages, such as Somali.

To submit a tip by computer:

Go to www.crimestoppersmn.org. Click on the "Submit a Tip" button on the main page. Web tips can be made in English, French, and Spanish.

To submit a tip by text message:

Text TIP674 plus your message to 274637. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

The Plymouth Police Explorer Program: Join Now!

The Explorer program is designed to introduce young people to the career of law enforcement. Explorers interact with police officers on a regular basis and learn first hand what the duties and responsibilities are of police officers. Applications are now being accepted. Call 763-509-5008 x 7859 for more information.

Minimum eligibility for Explorer applicants: between the ages of 14 and 20 years old; no past criminal police contact; no more than 2 minor violations on their driving record; and must be able to attend weekly meetings.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Corner: Domestic Abuse Victims' Rights

For 3 years, Minnesota has had the Domestic Abuse Victims' Rights law on the books. The law has been important in protecting victims from their live-in abusers. Minnesota State Statute 504B.206 gives victims of domestic abuse the right to terminate a rental lease at a time of their choosing. To terminate a lease, the victim must provide **a copy of the Order for Protection or No Contact Order and written notice** to the landlord stating:

- ✓ The resident fears imminent domestic abuse from the person named in the order.
- ✓ The resident needs to terminate the tenancy.
- ✓ *The specific date the tenancy will end.*

The resident is responsible for the current month's rent **plus an additional amount equal to one month's rent.** The law applies only to the victim and their children. It does not apply to roommates or the suspect.

Especially for Business Teen Employees and Drugs at Work

The Wayzata School District has a program called Partners in Prevention, a community coalition to reduce teen substance use and abuse. A packet was developed to support businesses in their efforts in educating their employees about substance abuse policies at the workplace. The packet contains:

- Employer's Responsibility
- MN Student Survey data on our Wayzata youth
- Sample workplace policies for tobacco, alcohol and drug use
- Behavior Checklist for Employers

A clear non-use policy sends a consistent message from employer to employee as to your expectations and that you will enforce your policies. A safe and productive work environment promotes the growth of employees and their work ethics. For more information, please contact Judy Hanson, Chemical Health Coordinator, Wayzata Public Schools, at judy.hanson@wayzata.k12.mn.us.

Vehicle headlights need to be on:
- between sunset and sunrise;
- in inclement weather, such as rain, snow, or fog;
- or anytime visibility is reduced.

Fraud Stop: Insurance Fraud

Insurance fraud costs the US \$80 billion per year, or \$1,000 per family. Anyone can commit insurance fraud, from organized crime to a next door neighbor. There are many types of insurance scams. Here are a few:

Staged Car Crash: A criminal pulls in front of you, causing a crash. The scammers then exaggerate injuries.

Workplace Con: An employee fakes or exaggerates a workplace injury to get workers' comp benefits.

Slip and Fall: A scammer walks into a business and pretends to slip or fall, then claims a fake injury.

Insurer Scams and Agent Swindles: Criminals sell fake policies or dishonest agents don't pay your premium.

Property Crimes and Little White Lies: Victims claim higher property losses or under-report miles driven.

Why does this matter? Premiums stay high because insurance companies pass the costs of fraud on to all policy holders. You could lose everything if you have phony insurance or your insurance isn't paid by your agent.

You or someone you love could be hurt or killed in a staged car crash. And, if you commit fraud, you could lose your job, land a big fine and/or jail time, and make it difficult to get insurance in the future. Visit

www.insurancefraud.org to learn more about fraud and how to protect yourself from becoming a fraud victim.

Featured Safety Programs:

Plymouth Crime Map: Are you wondering if crimes are happening in your neighborhood? Go to plymouthmn.gov and click on "Police Crime Map" to see where common crimes have been committed in Plymouth.

Email Alert Network: Residents can sign up to be on the Plymouth Email Alert Network to be advised of crime trends which affect their neighborhood and be kept informed of safety program offerings and updates. Call 763-509-5198 to register.



Night to Unite
is Aug. 3rd!
Sign up today!
763-509-5198

Emergency: **9-1-1** Non-emergency: **763-525-6210** Crime Tip 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@plymouthmn.gov. Thank you!