



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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New Year, New You: One Resolution You Shouldn't Break

Every year, millions of people make New Year's Resolutions: to lose weight, save money, eat better, get in shape, quit smoking, get a better job, volunteer to help others, etc. Often, by the time spring rolls around, many resolutions have gone by the wayside. This year, make a resolution that is easy to keep and can increase the quality of life for you, your family, and the community: resolve to *incorporate safety into your daily routines!* Small, simple safety steps you can take today, and every day are:

- ♣ Lock your doors and windows. Keep overhead garage doors closed, even when home. Need help with home security tips? Schedule a free premise security survey! Call 763-509-5147.
- ♣ Remove valuables from your car *or* place valuables in the trunk prior to arriving at your destination. Lock your car.
- ♣ Record serial numbers of valuables or mark property with an Operation ID number. Register for Op ID by calling 763-509-5147.
- ♣ Be wary of scams: never respond to unsolicited emails requesting personal or financial information or click on links embedded in these emails, be careful opening email attachments, never wire money to anyone without thoroughly checking out a story, research charitable organizations prior to making a donation, and never agree to accept more money for an item and send back the difference, and remember that you can't win a lottery you never entered!
- ♣ Report suspicious activity by calling 911 immediately. Unsure if you should call and report something? Don't hesitate—make the call!
- ♣ Wear your seatbelt. Make sure kids are in proper car seats/boosters.
- ♣ Don't text or use the cell phone while driving. Don't drink and drive either. Oh, and slow down!
- ♣ Wear a helmet when biking, skateboarding, or riding a scooter.
- ♣ Get to know your neighbors. Start or join a Neighborhood Watch group or hold a Night to Unite party. Night to Unite is August 7th. Call 763-509-5198 for more information.



By resolving to make safety a part of your everyday life, you can help prevent crime and keep our community safe!

Community Mediation Services

In a perfect world, we would all get along. However, this isn't always the case. Small nuisances or disagreements can turn into major problems if they are not dealt with. The most effective way to solve issues is to sit down and talk in a respectful environment. Community Mediation Services (CMS) provides **free** mediation for Plymouth residents. Mediation is a voluntary process where a neutral mediator assists people in reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement of their dispute. Mediation is a great option for many situations: landlord/tenant or neighbor/neighbor disputes, juvenile issues, harassment, or anything else *except* assault and felony crimes. Starting mediation is easy—all it takes is a referral! Anyone can make a referral to CMS, including one of the disputants. Once a referral is made, CMS will contact the parties and advise them of the proposed mediation. All parties must agree to mediate. CMS works days, evenings, and weekends and does travel to locations convenient for the disputants. Mediation is successful in many cases! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain! For more information, call Community Mediation at 763-561-0033 or go to www.mediationprogram.com.

Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner: Rental license training requirements

In 2008, Plymouth added a mandatory training requirement for people who *own or manager 2 or more rental units*. All licensees must attend an 8-hour CFMH Phase 1 certification and then attend a refresher once every 3 years in order to maintain their license.

New rental license holders have one year to obtain their CFMH certification. They may attend any CFMH Phase 1 training offered. A copy of the certificate must be attached to the license application upon renewal.

Current license holders must attend one refresher every 3 years. Ways to meet this requirement:

- ♣ Attend 3 of the 4 quarterly Plymouth Crime Free Rental meetings held the 2nd Thursday of January, April, July, and October from 11 AM to noon.
- ♣ Attend a ½ day CFMH refresher class. Plymouth will hold at least 3 refresher classes each year.
- ♣ Attend at least 4 hours of rental-related training through MHA or similar group.

A copy of the refresher certificate must be attached to the license application renewal when required.

If you have questions regarding training requirements, contact 763-509-5147 or ahaseman@plymouthmn.gov.

Especially for Business: Tips for Preventing Crime at Work

Use good prevention practices to stay safe at work.

- ♣ Do a quick visual check of the parking lot and building if you are opening. Do not enter if something doesn't look right.
- ♣ Keep handbags locked in a desk or a locker.
- ♣ Have all guests sign in and wear IDs.
- ♣ Address visitors by asking, "May I help you?" Good customer service can deter a criminal.
- ♣ Don't give out confidential information. Report unsolicited requests like this to your employer.
- ♣ Lock doors at close and never let anyone in after hours.
- ♣ Report suspicious activity by calling 911.

**Posting photos online
taken with your smart phone?
Protect your loved ones.
Turn off your camera location
services in the "Settings" menu.**

Fraud Stop: Beware Tax Season Scams, Again

As if taxes aren't stressful enough, scammers continue to find ways to take advantage of unsuspecting people each tax season. You should be very cautious when receiving an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS (or any other government agency or financial institution.) Criminals often send messages that have:

- Information that refers to a tax refund,
- Warnings about unreported or under-reported income, or
- Offers to assist in filing for a refund.

These messages may ask users to submit personal information via email or may instruct the user to follow a link to a website that requests personal information (phishing scam) or contains malicious code (malware campaign.)

To help reduce your risk of becoming a victim of one of these schemes:

- Never reply back to an unsolicited request for personal or financial information,
- Never follow unsolicited web links in email messages or open attachments,
- Maintain up-to-date antivirus software.

For more information related to taxes, phishing, scams, and reporting information, go to www.irs.gov.

Featured Program: Path of Kindness

The Path of Kindness program began in December 2011 by the Plymouth Police Department and the 5th grade students at Greenwood Elementary School. Path of Kindness is designed to capture and promote what is best about the City of Plymouth and its youth by teaching kids about the value of helping others. Each Greenwood 5th grader was given a Path of Kindness card. They were asked to commit an act of kindness in the community. After doing something nice for someone else, they give their kindness card to that person and inspire them to pay forward their own act of kindness to another person. The cards are numbered. As the cards exchange hands, kindness-givers are asked to complete a short online survey to record their experiences. In doing so, kids will be able to track the path of kindness that their own cards have taken and see the difference they have made in the lives of others. So far, our cards have traveled around Minnesota and one even traveled overseas!

Emergency: 9-1-1 Non-emergency: 763-525-6210 CrimeStoppers: 800-222-TIPS
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!