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## CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018



It's that time of year again, when the ghosts and goblins come out to spread a little shenanigans and Halloween cheer. But there are "ghosts and goblins" that we deal with no matter the season, those who look for opportunities to commit crime. It is also the time of year in which we begin to experience more hours of darkness than light. One way to remove the opportunity to commit crimes is to have a well-lit area. Make sure all of your exterior lights are in good working order, and the bulbs replaced. Consider doing a lighting survey of your own, and evaluate areas on your property that could use more light. The upcoming Trick or Treaters would appreciate more light as they go about their quest for treats.

Speaking of Trick or Treaters, this is a good time to list some reminders to stay safe this Halloween. Here's what the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests.

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes. Makeup should be tested ahead of time on a small patch of skin to ensure there are no unpleasant surprises on the big day.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he stumbles or trips.
- Do not use decorative contact lenses without an eye examination and a prescription from an eye care professional. While the packaging on decorative lenses will often make claims such as "one size fits all," or "no need to see an eye specialist," obtaining decorative contact lenses without a prescription is both dangerous and illegal. This can cause pain, inflammation, and serious eye disorders and infections, which may lead to permanent vision loss.

- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they ever have an emergency or become lost.
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or-Treaters:
  - o Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
  - o Remember reflective tape for costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
  - o Carry a cellphone for quick communication.
  - o Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
  - o If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
  - o Never cut across yards or use alleys.
  - o Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.
  - o Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
  - o Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

### **Scammers and Scoundrels**



Recently I spoke with an elderly woman who had received a text on her cell phone that stated that the person sending the text was just down the street and wanted to find a “sex partner.” Obviously, receiving this text was very disturbing and frightening because this person was living independently and she worried that someone on her street was watching her. As she continued to read the text it became apparent that this was another texting scam. The text provided a link that you could click on to “see a photo” of the person, and said “no need cost.” These scammers are hoping to prey upon an individual’s sense of loneliness, but like any other texting scam, clicking on an embedded link in the text will spell trouble. Don’t fall for these scams. Not only are these scammers not “down the street,” but they are likely in a foreign country. I call these types of text scams a fishing net. The scammer throws out a wide net to as many numbers as possible hoping that a few will get caught up in the net. Simply delete and block the number. You will probably receive more in the future, but you are not a victim if you don’t play along.

***Stay vigilant!!***

Areas of Concern

Break-in to vehicles	Stony Brook Drive, Willowbrook Circle, Countryside Trace, Sprowl Road
Theft of lawn equipment from locked trailer	Resource Way
Theft of shrubbery (construction site)	Stony Brook Drive
Stop sign complaints	Cambridge Station Road, Ledbury Way

*Emergency call 911*

*To report a crime call (502) 267-0503*

*Any questions concerning Block Watch programs,  
contact Community Resource Officer Felicia Burba  
at the Jeffersontown Police Department  
(502) 267-0505*

*Visit our website : [www.jeffersontown.gov](http://www.jeffersontown.gov)*