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**BLOCK WATCH NEWSLETTER**  
**JULY 2017**

**Around the Neighborhood**

**HAPPY  
4TH OF  
JULY!**

This is a festive time of year, full of cook outs, pool time, and of course, fireworks. I want to take a moment to address the safety concerns involving the use of fireworks throughout the neighborhoods. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2015 there were 11 deaths and almost 12,000 fireworks related injuries.

Fireworks have also caused thousands of fires each year. The National Fire Protection Association reported that fireworks sparked about 1,400 structure fires, 200 vehicle fires and 14,000 other fires.

It is advised to leave firework displays to the seasoned professionals and stay away from consumer fireworks.

Please read the following safety tips when igniting fireworks for display:

1. Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
2. Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
3. A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
4. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
5. Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
6. Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
7. Do not hold a fireworks item in your hand.
8. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
9. Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water before you discard it.
10. After purchasing fireworks, always store them in a cool, dry place.
11. When using fireworks always have a connected hose, bucket of water, or other water source nearby.
12. Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
13. Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
14. Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trashcan away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
15. Ensure all pets and animals are away from fireworks noise. Contain your pets in a safe area away from the fireworks so they do not panic and run away.
16. With the rise in stress-related disorders affecting American service men and women, pay special consideration to individuals who may be sensitive to loud noises in proximity to your fireworks show. Be respectful!!

***As always, be safe, and enjoy your holiday!***

## Scammers and Scoundrels

This month I want to address fake check scams. This is a very common scam used by scammers to make a quick buck. It is sometimes called the “overpayment scam” because it involves a large initial payment to the target – much more than they are owed for the transaction – with the surplus going back to the scammer.



**How the Scam Works:** The scammer looks for someone trying to sell something online and pretends to be interested in a purchase. Or scammers will “hire” you for a job, such as secret shopping, or tell you you’ve won a sweepstakes prize. In all cases, the amount of the check is “accidentally” written for far more than the agreed amount. The scammer tells you to deposit the check, keep the amount owed, and wire back the difference. . A wire transfer is like sending cash; once it’s gone, it is very hard to trace. Because a check requires a few days to clear a financial institution, there is a delay in discovering that the deposited check was fraudulent. At this point it is too late, the damage has been done. The victim of this scam will be held responsible for reimbursing the financial institution for the amount of the fake check.

### **Tips:**

- Be immediately suspicious of overpayments.
- Never send money to people you don’t know, especially if they ask for the money in an unusual form such as wire transfer or prepaid debit card. Do not share personal information such as date-of-birth, bank or credit card accounts, passwords, etc. with anyone you do not know. Don’t prepay taxes, insurance, or fees on something you have supposedly won.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a fake check scam alert in the recent past. These checks can be very well made and difficult to detect the deception. This is because they may be printed with the names, addresses, and logos of legitimate financial institutions. Be very suspicious of any pressure to wire funds. Do not accept checks that are written for more than an asking price. If in doubt, do not cash the check. If you find yourself in one of these situations, do the following:

- Contact the police department to report the scam.
- Contact your state’s attorney general.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Your complaint will be filed into a secure online database, which is used by many local, state, federal, and international law enforcement agencies. Complaints from consumers help detect patterns of fraud and abuse.
- If you or the victim is an older adult or a person with a disability, contact your local adult protective services agency.

Areas of Concern

10500 block Brookhill Court	Theft of bicycle
10900 block Electron Drive	Theft of trailer
2900 block of Six Mile Lane	Complaint of speeders
2800 block of Ruckriegel Pkwy.	Report of illegal dumping
10200 block of Falling Tree Way	Report of attempted thefts from vehicles
1000 block of Springside Way	Attempted thefts from vehicles
Linn Station Road	Complaints of speeding in area
2700 block of Tregaron Avenue	Theft of bicycle
2800 block of Smoke Road	Attempted thfts from vehicles
2800 block of Biggin Hill Court	Criminal mischief to vehicle
Stoke on Trent	Theft from vehicles
8600 & 8900 block of Loch Lea Lane	Attempted thefts from vehicles
Kentucky Mills Drive	Theft from trailer
10100 block of Taylorsville Road	Report of possible loitering and narcotics use
1600 block of Alliant Avenue	Thefts from vehicles
10400 block of Florian Road	Thefts from vehicles
3300 block of Conway Court	Thefts from vehicles
8900 block of Lantern Lite Pkwy.	Thefts from vehicles

*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)*