Neighborhood Watch/Nextdoor.com Newsletter

Halloween Safety Tips

Ten Safety Tips for Halloween

1. **Go During the Allotted Trick or Treat time:** The Town of Normal’s Trick or Treat hours are from 5pm to 8pm on 10/31/17. Eat an early supper, then you can get your dessert.

2. **Limit your use of Masks:** Masks are fun, but try face painting. Another trick is to cut out bigger eye holes and breathing holes. Make sure the mask fits snugly.

3. **Be Visible:** Choose costumes that are brightly colored so that they are easier to see in the dark. Apply some reflective strips to their costume. Wear glow sticks!

4. **Never Go Alone:** Make sure young children have a chaperone. Older children should go with a friend or friends. It will make it more fun!

5. **Walking Tips:** Make sure your children understand simple traffic rules. Your children should never assume they have the right away when crossing the street, especially at night on Halloween.

6. **Trick or Treat at friends:** Only go to neighborhoods/houses you know. If they are no lights on it is typically a good sign they are not up for trick-or-treaters.

7. **Don’t Go Inside:** If you trick or treat only at friends, this is not as much of an issue. If you are invited in by someone you do not know, turn and walk away.

8. **Stay On Track:** Stay on streets and in neighborhoods that are well lit and where there are plenty of people around.

9. **Say No!** Be sure and designate a time for your children’s return. Tell your children if a stranger offers to give them a ride, they should say “no”.

10. **Taste-Testing Patience:** Make sure you check their candy prior to their indigestion! They will want to “check” their candy earlier, but remind them you need to check it first.
Trick or Treat Hours

***The Town of Normal Trick-or-Treat Hours***
The Town of Normal trick-or-treat hours are from **5pm to 8pm on Halloween**. Please respect these hours for hoarding your candy! Also, keep in mind if the porch light is not on, they do not wish to have trick-or-treaters.

See the below link for more information on the Haunted Trail.

http://il-normal.civicplus.com/349/Haunted-Trail

Admission is $1 or a canned good (first weekend only). There is a scary and not scary version. Check the link above.

Celebrate Safely!!!

Christmas Reminder (last newsletter until after the New Year)

The weather is still nice and holiday shopping is likely not on the top of your current to do list. Black Friday is almost upon us, however, and Normal Police offer some helpful tips to keep your finances safe while searching for the perfect present:

- **Keep your purse close and your wallet closer**... Holiday shopping also brings out holiday pickpockets. NEVER leave your purse unattended. Thieves love to strike purses unattended in shopping carts - if only for a few seconds! If you carry a wallet, put it in your front pocket to make it harder to steal.

- **Travel light**... Remove unnecessary information and extra credit cards from your wallet. This will cause less headache in the event your wallet is lost or stolen. Remember to NEVER carry your social security card with you.

- **Don’t lose sight of your cards**... Credit card skimming activity has been recently reported in Normal and Bloomington (When paying with debit or credit card, keep your cards in your sight at all times to avoid problems. Keep a close eye on your credit card statements and report any suspicious activity IMMEDIATELY!

- **Everything from A to Z**... When shopping online, only provide your credit card information to reputable companies and only do so over secure connections. To check for a secure connection, look at the web page address. If the beginning has the letters “https://…” then it is secure.

If you are the victim of fraud or identity theft, contact the police IMMEDIATELY. The faster we can respond, the better chance we have to catch those responsible!
Normal Residential Burglaries July-September 2017

There were **21 residential burglaries** reported in the Town of Normal between July 1 - September 30, 2017. The following list includes burglaries of private residences organized by mode of entry. Burglaries from apartment complexes, mostly in the Illinois State University campus area, are not included in this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Street Name</th>
<th>Mode of Entry</th>
<th>Loss Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/02/17</td>
<td>11a-2p</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Dale</td>
<td>Yes-Broken Bedroom Window</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/08/17</td>
<td>9a-4p</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Lismore Ln</td>
<td>Yes, Basement Window</td>
<td>$910/All recovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/27/17</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Y-Rear door kicked</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/09/17</td>
<td>1p-2p</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>E. Vernon</td>
<td>No-open garage door</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/20/17</td>
<td>9/20-9/26</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>B St, NMV</td>
<td>N-open front door</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/30/17</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>W. Raab</td>
<td>N-open side door</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: There were a total of 21 burglaries during this quarter. **Please be aware of suspicious people in your neighborhoods. Please call the police department at 309/888.5030 or 911 if you observe anyone trying to, illegally, gain entry into a residence or vehicle.**

The loss value represents the total dollar amount of damage caused added to the total dollar amount of stolen items as reported by the victims.

There were also **60 vehicle burglaries** reported throughout the Town of Normal between July 1 and September 30. 7 vehicles were entered by force. 53 were entered because of UNLOCKED DOORS/WINDOWS.
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline.

One in four women will be physically or sexually abused by a partner in her lifetime. Advocacy groups across the country come together in October to spotlight Domestic Violence with initiatives such as Silent Witnesses, Empty Place at the Table, Clotheslines and Purple Ribbons.

To learn more about Domestic Violence Awareness month or to find out how you can help in our community, visit the Mid Central Community Action, Inc. website or call 309.829.0691.

If you or someone you know is a victim of Domestic Violence - help is available. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800.799.7233 or TTY 800.787.3224.

National Drug Take Back Initiative

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications.

The Normal Police Department has participated in this initiative every year since its inception, 14 years ago.

This is a perfect opportunity to dispose of your prescription medication safely and eco-friendly. We will recycle the containers and properly dispose of the contents.