



YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors
OUR RESPONSIBILITY
get involved today

Columbia Neighborhood Watch

March, 2023

Board Member Opening:

We currently have an openings for two (2) new Board Members.

If you are interested in one of the positions please email us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com with Board Opening in the subject line.

Nick Knoth, *Regional Director, Better Business Bureau*

Gave the following speech on December 6, 2022:

“The Better Business Bureau Torch Awards are an annual celebration to honor exceptional businesses and nonprofits in the community. The Torch Awards recognize local organizations' outstanding ethical practices and highlight the importance of trust and commitment to doing what's right.

Today we honor such an organization: the Columbia Neighborhood Watch. They have demonstrated a strong belief in ethical behavior and provide an excellent service that is vital to making our region an incredible place to live, give and do business. It is for those reasons that they were selected from thousands of applicants by an independent, voluntary panel of judges comprised of business and community leaders.”



Board of Directors

Herb Watchinski Jr, President

Jeff Hempstead, , Vice President

Susan Dickerson Secretary

Keith Caldwell, Treasurer

Heath Rose

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Vacant

Vacant

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Quick reference ordinance/ codes

Here are some quick reference ordinance/ codes from the Office of Neighborhood Services regarding frequent community concerns and code violations that seem to increase during Spring and Summer time.

Trash out early: **Sec. 22-159.** - Residential customers. Placing refuse at curb too early.

Vehicles blocking or overhanging public sidewalks: **Sec. 14-286.** - Stopping, standing or parking prohibited.

Vehicles parking on public streets for over 24 hours at one time: **Sec. 14-546.** - Abandoning property; parking for longer than twenty-four hours.

Vehicles parking on public streets in an abandoned or inoperable condition: **Sec. 14-547.** - Leaving unlicensed wrecked, non operating vehicles on street or public property.

Residential over occupancy code violations: **Sec. 22-184.** - Certificate of Compliance and notice of occupancy limitations.

Limb/ tree/ garbage/ stagnant water concerns: **Sec. 11-230.** - Nuisances enumerated.

Landscape/ Weed overgrowth: **Sec. 11-252.** - Landscape management requirements.

Vehicles parking on unapproved surfaces: **Sec. 29-4.3-** Use of yards

Here are also some tools to assist with obtaining useful information with the City of Columbia or reporting potential violations.

Citizen Self Service (CSS) is the City of Columbia's new one stop shop for online application submittals, accessed from the Community Development Department page at www.GoMo.gov. Users may access this portal to search and apply for building permits, search and submit development plans, renew licenses, and track the current status of active inspections.

The Community Dashboard is a resource for active code enforcement cases, planning cases, City projects and development activity.

Online Problem Reporting: Go to "Report Problems" on the left menu at CoMo.gov



CoMoGives.com

A Project of the Community Foundation of Central Missouri

CoMoGives Fund Raising Results

A **special thank you** to the 32 people that donated and as a result \$2090 was raised. The goal was to get \$5000 which is our normal budget. We have not reached the \$5000 income for the budget since 2019. As a result of low funding, we have put new initiatives on hold (unless we obtain a grant) and concentrate funds on required costs and trainings.

Crime Stoppers provides a means of communication for members of the public to anonymously provide law enforcement agencies with information on crimes or suspects. Tipster can give information without revealing their identity and may be eligible for a financial reward. for the in-

Community Policing & Neighborhood Watch

Police and citizens often come into contact with each other for reasons other than criminal investigation. In addition to enforcing criminal law, police officers often engage in community service. Community service may include providing information and/or assistance to people in need, as well as offering youth education and coordinating community outreach efforts.

Columbia Police Smartphone Application

The free mobile app is called “ColumbiaPD”. With it online forms are available for reporting crime or other incidents inside city limits, including – vehicle accidents, disabled parking violations, graffiti, shoplifting, property or gasoline theft, bicycle harassment and suspicious activity. The forms are best used when there is little to no suspect information and no leads for an officer to investigate. The online reporting is valuable to CPD because it can help identify areas with a lot of criminal activity so officers can focus on those areas. After a report is submitted the sender should receive a reference number for their submission.

If the incident being reported, then a call should be made to 911 for an emergency (immediate dispatch) or 311 for a non-emergency (secondary dispatch).

[Download in the Apple Store for iPhone](#)

[Download in the Google Play Store for Android](#)

A Judge glared at the defendant and said, "So you admit breaking into the dress shop?" "Yes, your honor," the defendant replied.

"And why was that?"

"My wife wanted a dress."

The judge consulted his notes. " But it says here that you broke into the shop four nights in a row."

"Yes, sir," the defendant said. "She made me exchange it three times."

Leprechauns are so old that they remember when rainbows were black and white.

A teenager got his driver's license. The family marched out to the driveway and climbed in the car so he could take them all for a ride. The father immediately headed for the back seat directly behind the new driver.

"I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front teaching me how to drive," the boy said.

"Nope," came the reply, "I'm going to sit here and kick the back of your seat as you drive, like you've been doing to me all these years."

It is the time of the year when the days get longer, the cold weather is in abatement, and everyone yearns to get outside. Outside jobs that went uncompleted or never started last year await our movement from the inside to the outside. A time of renewed energy and ambition. But it is also a time for those that do not have our best interests in mind, and need some cash for any number of things, also begin their spring rituals.

I may be a single individual or a roving band of youngsters, but their intent is the same—find an easy target, grab something of value and split. And is just as fast as it took to read the last sentences. Do not be a uninformed victim, be vigilant and protect your family and property. The following tips can help everyone to stay safe:

- ◆ Do not leave a garage door open, even for a short period of time, unless you can see it. It only takes a moment to enter a 20 x 10 foot opening, grab things of value, and be gone down the street.
- ◆ While getting the yard ready for summer activities, do not forget to trim up trees for better line of sight from the street to your house and trim bushes back away from the house itself to eliminate a location for someone to hide themselves or stolen goods.
- ◆ Install solar powered and motion activated light at points of entrance to your home, e.g., over the garage door, over the John Deere entrance, and points on the outside of the house where entry can be gained through a window from the ground.
- ◆ Consider installing a video doorbell or security camera at the front door and other doors if easy to get to from the outside and used frequently. There are many types and styles to pick from and their costs are now very reasonable. And installation usually takes very little time.
- ◆ Make repairs to your home, both cosmetic and practical, that keeps the property looking good and demonstrates pride in ownership. Well maintained homes are a deterrent to bad guys because they know the owners care and will protect their property.
- ◆ Get out and greet your neighbors, arrange for a block party, or other get together out in the open as this demonstrates cohesiveness within the community and many hands and eyes are not the friend of those who wish us harm.
- ◆ Enroll in Smart911 and ReportIt for extra layers of protection and peace of mind.

- ◆ Free service that helps citizens communicate more effectively during emergencies.
- ◆ Smart911 improves the flow of information:
 - Number of people in the home
 - Medical problems, allergies, medications, disabilities, dementia
 - Access points, entry codes
- ◆ Ability to enter details you want to make available to 911 telecommunicators through a secure web site.
- ◆ Additional information can include:
 - Children's photos
 - Property information, including bedroom locations:
 - Pets in the home, name, location
 - Utilities information
 - Emergency contacts
 - Hydrant locations
 - Other rescue/personal related information
- ◆ Boone County Joint Communications is the first agency in Missouri to provide this service.

Sign up for Smart911



A free service:

Provided by your community



Private and secure:

You control your information



Saves time in an emergency:

When seconds count

 **Smart911.com™**



Online Resource

Securely store serial numbers, item descriptions, pictures, and scans of receipts so that your items may be more easily identified in the event of theft or loss

Safe, Secure, Free

General Public

Keep a secure, online record of valuable property, accessible from anywhere.

Law Enforcement

Help law enforcement recover stolen property faster than before.

All for Free