



# INDEPENDENCE POLICE

September 2009

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 6, 2009**  
Block Captain Meeting  
Truman High School  
Room 240  
7:00 PM

**September 26, 2009**  
Touch A Truck  
Noon to 3PM  
2100 S. Hub  
(Adventure Oasis)

**October 8, 2009**  
Neighborhood Watch  
Fundraiser  
10505 E. Winner Rd.  
Maywood Baptist  
4-8 PM

**November 3, 2009**  
Block Captain Meeting  
Truman High School  
Room 240

### Bulletin!!!!

Additional "No Soliciting" stickers are in. Please feel free to contact Officer Romey if you are in need of additional stickers for your neighborhood watch group

### FREE MONEY SCAMS

Have you ever received a check in the mail for \$5, \$10, or \$15 from your credit card company? The check may or may not come with your statement, but nonetheless, is real and has your name on it. You place the check with other checks you might have lying around the house, and on your next trip to the bank, deposit the check into your account. Several months later you review your credit card statement, and notice a \$5 charge. You then go through a few more statements, and realize that you have been paying this \$5 charge for several months now.

You call your credit card company, and are told that YOU volunteered for a promotion, and agreed to join. They will cancel your subscription to the promotion, but often with large penalties or other costs to you.

So what happened? You are the victim of a promotional check. In this particular case, your credit card company sent you the

check as a way to get you to voluntarily enroll in one of their costly programs. The check is merely the tool they use to get the unexpected to sign up.

The way in which this works is that if you read the fine print, or the accompanying letter, it will always say something to the effect of, "By endorsing this check you agree to be enrolled in our insurance program." Although some individuals may actually want to be signed up for these promotions, a vast number of people miss the fine print, sign up for the promotion, and farther down the road begin to incur charges they were not prepared for.

The best way to avoid becoming a victim of this is to make sure that you always read the fine print. Most of these checks now have a paragraph directly above where you endorse your check, advising you that depositing this check will enroll you in their program. Pay attention to that paragraph, and use good judgment. Also, remember that credit card companies are in business to make money, they can not do this by sending you free money!

A second variation of this scam has also started coming to light. In this newer scam, you venture to a website which advises you that to continue you need to enter a password. To get the password, you must enter your cell phone number,



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and they will text the password to you. The site states that "standard texting rates apply." You enter your cell phone number, receiving a text in seconds. You use the password, and log onto the site.

Later in the month when you receive your cell phone statement, you see a charge for a subscription service on your phone. Again, you have unwittingly signed up for a service, which you may or may not want or use. By giving out your cell phone number, then using the provided password which was texted to you, they have added you to their subscription. Again you will see charges for this recur on your statement until you take steps to correct.

In this second variation, it is harder to see the dangers ahead because of the cleverness of the web-pages. With little regulation, and the location of the web-page designers they can be much harder to keep track of. Make sure that before giving your phone number out, you have read all of the small print and know what you are getting in to.

Remember, review your statements monthly. Look for any charges that you did not approve, or should not be on your statement. Call and question any strange activity. Take control of your finances, and don't pay unnecessary charges.

**PREPARING FOR AWARDS**

As we step back and celebrate Labor Day, we come to realize that summer is beginning to wind down. The days are getting shorter, and soon the holidays followed by the new year.

Since this is the first year in which I have had groups register, I want to remind everyone to have their paperwork in as soon as possible. We will be preparing the awards early this year, so that we are ready when the awards ceremony comes around.

If you have a meeting, or create a newsletter, remember to send me a copy, via e-mail, snail mail, or fax. I also will be making sure maps are up to date.

As the next year starts, we will again have groups register. This way we can keep track of how many groups are still going strong into 2010.

I am looking for groups to give out special awards to. I feel it is important that hard work gets recognized. I will again be giving out the "Block Watch of the Year Award." If you feel your group is deserving, please let me know.

Our awards dinner is tentatively planned for January, 5th at the Truman Memorial Building.

**COP SHOP AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FUNDRAISER**

Over the past 2 years, the neighborhood watch program in the City of Independence has experienced remarkable growth.

In addition to new groups and new members, the program has also expanded in an attempt to educate and promote crime prevention education and awareness, as well as become a cornerstone of community involvement.

As the program has grown, so has the need for a larger operating budget. As we all took note from our National Night Out event, events of this nature take money. Although some grants have been received, without addi-

tional funds, we can not continue to expand the wonderful programs that we are currently starting up.

In an attempt to further the neighborhood watch programs, several blockwatch groups have began planning a fundraiser to be held on October 8, 2009 from 4-8 PM at Maywood Baptist Church located at 10505 E. Winner Rd.

This event will put blockwatch groups from across the city into a friendly cook-off competition to determine which group can lay claim to, "The best spaghetti sauce in town."

In the end, the real winner will be the neighborhood watch program, and the

citizens who participate in it.

On the next page you will find a copy of the informational flyer. Please feel free to copy and distribute. Share this information with your neighbors as well as your community.

For additional information, or to see how you can get involved, please contact Frank Kithcart at 806-5758, or Peggy Ault at 836-3067.

# Englewood Cop Shop Benefit!!

## Advance Tickets

**\$6 for adults**

**\$3 for children 4-10**

At the door:

**\$8 for adults**

**\$4 for children 4-10**

**Kids 3 and under  
FREE!!!!**

**OCTOBER 8**

**4:00 to 8:00 PM at**

**Maywood Baptist Church  
10505 E. Winner Rd.**

**Bring your best Spaghetti Sauce  
and/or Best Apple Pie !**

**To be judged by Independence  
area chefs and notables and con-  
sumed by your friends and**



**Prizes to be  
awarded!!**

**Judging will take place between 6:30 and 7:30 pm**

*To show off your culinary skills  
and register to be in the contest  
or for more information please  
call:*

*Frank Kithcart 806-5758  
Peggy Ault 836-3067*

Thanks to our sponsors!!  
(in alphabetical order)

BD's Mongolian BBQ  
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Maywood Baptist Church  
On The Border  
Wal-Mart

**E-mail us your articles**

**rromey@indepmo.org**

**INDEPENDENCE  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

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Independence, MO 64052**

**Phone: 816-325-7643**

**Fax: 816-325-7647**

**E-mail: rromeo@indepmo.org**

**Return Service Requested**

**H E L P I N G   T O   K E E P   O U R  
N E I G H B O R H O O D S   S A F E .**

**FEATURED BLOCK WATCH “MAYWOOD WATCHDOGS”**

This month's featured block-watch group is the Maywood Watchdogs. The Maywood Watchdogs are located in northwest Independence between 24 Hwy and Truman, just west of Ash. I contacted Peggy Ault with a few questions about her block watch program.

Peggy advised that her group has been together since June of 2004. Initially started with the assistance of then coordinator, Gary England. During that first meeting her and Doug Ault, her hus-

band, were elected captains. After a small start of just 4 blocks, the Watchdogs have expanded to over 180 homes.

The Watchdogs stay very active in their community. They specialize in planning and executing large events, such as their annual block party. This year, the watchdogs worked with the Maywood Terrace Living Center to co-host a 1950's themed block party, complete with a dance and car show. Over 300 people showed up for the one day event.

The Watchdogs are also very active in assisting with fundraising for neighborhood needs, including playing a pivotal role in next month's fundraiser for the Independence Englewood Station.

When citing keys to success, Peggy pointed out her communication within her group, as well as strong captains. The Watchdogs meet monthly, and also the captains within the group stay in constant contact. On top of that Peggy also points out the great workers who all have the goal

of making their neighborhood the best.

When asked if she could shed any light to new groups just forming, Peggy advises to network with your neighbors, other crime watches, and community groups. Try to locate resources to help your program grow. Take your time and go slow. In the end it will be well worth the effort.

For their dedication to their, as well as other communities, the Maywood Watchdogs are the September Watch Group of the month.