

# Missoula County Neighborhood Watch

## Newsletter



**Volume 2Q2021**

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## Neighborhood Watch: Proactive Crime Prevention

Missoula Neighborhood Watch focuses on 1) observation and reporting of suspicious activity and 2) training citizens in ways to make their homes and neighborhoods safer.

Contact information:

Join our Email distribution list at:

[missoulaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com](mailto:missoulaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com)

Join our Facebook group:

<http://bit.ly/MissoulaNW> or search "Missoula Neighborhood Watch"

Reach out thru USPS mail:

MNW, P.O. Box 1334, Lolo, MT 59847





# Missoula County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Crime Reporting Form

**Missoula County Sheriff's Office recently announced the availability of the Non-Emergency Crime Reporting Portal to Missoula County residents living outside Missoula city limits.**

**Currently, the portal can be used to report crimes of theft, criminal mischief, lost and/or found property, or theft from a vehicle. We encourage Missoula County residents to take advantage of the convenient use of the portal, but it is not required. If they do not have computer access or would like to speak to a deputy, residents can still call 9-1-1 or 406-728-0911 to report a non-emergent crime or make a request.**

**The Non-Emergency Crime Reporting Portal and service is offered as a convenience to county residents, includes 14 questions and can be found at <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/public-safety/sheriff-s-office/report-non-emergency-crime>. For those over 18 and outside the Missoula city limits the portal can be used to report crimes that fit into these four categories:**

- 1. Non-emergency crimes or incidents**
- 2. Non-violent crimes or incidents. (A non-violent crime is when there was no force used and there were no injuries to anyone, and/or no weapons were involved.)**
- 3. Crimes in which the suspect is unknown.**
- 4. The types of crimes are either theft, criminal mischief (e.g. vandalism, graffiti), found/lost property, or theft from a vehicle.**

**During the portal's development stage, Detectives responded to 3-5 reports weekly and were able to respond to crimes that may have gone unreported. "I'm proud of the work that has gone into the development of this portal and service and convenience that it provides to our county residents. We look forward to its continued use as a service to our outlying communities," said Sheriff, T.J. McDermott.**

**The use of the portal will be continually evaluated to determine the feasibility to add to the current list of crimes that can be reported.**

**Please note that this portal is for non-emergency crimes. If you are experiencing an emergency, or you are in danger, call 9-1-1 immediately.**

**\*The above was contributed by Information Officer Jeannette Smith of the Missoula County Sheriff's Office.**

# Protect Yourself – some safeguards\*

Today, there are many products and services to help protect citizens from scams. Here are a few safeguards that you should consider:

1. Worried that you might be a good fraud target? Online financial vulnerability survey (Wayne State University of Gerontology) offers one-on-one coaching to help users catch fraud or identity theft: [OlderAdultNestEgg.com](https://OlderAdultNestEgg.com)
2. Check out a broker. Free online tool from FINRA, the independent nongovernmental regulator of US securities firms: [BrokerCheck.finra.org](https://BrokerCheck.finra.org)
3. Protect your daily mail – [InformedDelivery.usps](https://InformedDelivery.usps) (also see our last newsletter [21Q1] for more info)
4. Block unsolicited calls. Sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry at [DoNotCall.gov](https://DoNotCall.gov)

## Tips to Fight Phone and Computer Fraud\*\*

1. Let calls from strangers go to voicemail
2. Simply delete suspicious pop-ups or phone messages
3. If on the phone, ask for info in writing, then hang up
4. Do not allow anyone remote access to your home computer

\*Taken from: AARP Bulletin, April 2021, “Protect Yourself” by Joe Eaton

\*\*Taken from AARP Bulletin, April 2021, “Don’t Call Back” by Jim Browning