



# Neighborhood Watch/Nextdoor.com Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2019

## Beating a Dead Horse, the Grandparents Scam

I KNOW I have mentioned this scam in this newsletter, via social media and in several one-on-one presentations, but NPD is still receiving several reports and victims of this horrible crime.

In a typical Grandparent Scam, a con artist calls or emails the victim posing as a relative in distress or someone claiming to represent the relative (such as a lawyer or law enforcement agent). The "relative" of the grandparent explains she is in trouble and needs their grandparent to wire them funds that will be used for bail money, lawyer's fees, hospital bills, or another fictitious expense.

### BE INFORMED:

The victim is urged not to tell anyone, such as the parent of the "grandchild" because they do not want them to find out about the trouble they've gotten themselves into. The grandparent never hears from their fake grandchild again and is tricked out of hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

To detect and avoid the Grandparent Scam, NCL's Fraud Center recommends the following tips:

- Beware of any urgent solicitation of funds, especially if it is needed to pay for unexpected bills, such as bail money, lawyer's fees, or doctor bills
- Before sending funds, independently contact the relative (or parent of the relative) the scam artist is claiming to be (or represent) at a known phone number to verify the details of the story.
- Scam artist's payment method of choice is the wire transfer. Any urgent request to wire money should be treated suspiciously.
- Be aware that fraudsters attempting the Grandparent Scam may call late at night to confuse potential victims.

Consumers who have been victims of this scam should immediately report it to local law enforcement, their state attorney general and NCL's Fraud Center at [Fraud.org](http://Fraud.org).



### What Neighborhood Watch is:

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents, in cooperation with law enforcement, to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area.

### What Neighborhood Watch is not:

It is not a program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.



Nextdoor.com is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

## Snow Ban Information



A reminder to residents: When a snow ban is issued, NO PARKING is allowed on Normal streets until after the streets are plowed.

In the event of a street parking ban and no drive way space is available, residents are encouraged to park vehicles at any of our local parks. Vehicles parked in the street are at risk of being ticketed or towed during a Snow Ban.

Snow Bans are announced via all local radio stations as well as *The Pantagraph* and all of the Town of Normal's social media. Announcement will also be made once the Snow Ban has been lifted.

If you have questions about the snow ban or to check if a ban has been issued, contact Normal Police at 309.454.9535.

## Normal Residential Burglaries October-December 2018

There were **24 residential burglaries** reported in the Town of Normal from October 1 - December 31, 2018. The following list includes burglaries of private residences organized by date. Burglaries from apartment complexes in the Illinois State University campus area are not included in this information.

Report Date	Report Time	Block	Street	Mode of Entry	Estimated Loss Value
10/30/18	9:30pm	1000	Teegan	No force-garage door	\$250
11/11/18	Noon	1000	Ironwood	No force	\$1500
11/12/18	12:30pm	1000	N. Linden	Yes force-back window	\$170
11/29/18	11:00pm	1100	Blue Bill Way	no force - door	\$400
12/1/18	9:00am	800	Dillon	No	\$1000
12/10/18	5:30pm	300	Ironwood	No-garage door	\$463
12/16/18	2:00pm	2000	Dream	Attempt	Attempt
12/25/18	5:45pm	100	S. Parkside	Yes-Front Door	\$4630
<b>Total</b>				<b>8 Burglaries</b>	<b>\$8413</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR DOORS. IT IS THE NUMBER 1 METHOD OF ENTRY IN ALL BURGLARIES!!**

There were also **34 vehicle burglaries** reported throughout the Town of Normal between October 1 and December 31, 2018. 5 of those vehicle burglaries were forced entry, which means 29 vehicles were left **UNLOCKED**.