

Two Unlocked Cars Entered Monday Night

A total of \$2 in change stolen

- **Unit block of Newlands Street:** Car was parked on the street and rifled through.
- **6300 block of Broadbranch Road:** Car was parked on the street; \$2 in coins taken.

Please lock your car every time you park. Deny thieves the opportunity to steal.

Phone Scammers are Hard at Work

Beware of 'IRS agent' / 'Lawsuit pending' / 'Grandchild needs bail money'

'Jury duty arrest threat' versions on the theme

Recently, several residents have received calls from various thieves who use various ruses to frighten them into sending money to prevent something bad from happening. The various scams include:

- An 'IRS' agent calls alerting the victim that they owe back taxes or penalties, and they must pay right away to being arrested.
- A caller tries to convince the victim that unless they send cash right away, they will be sued. The money will stop the suit.
- A caller claims to be the victim's grandchild in dire need of cash to bail him out of jail following an arrest (driving under the influence is frequently used). The 'grandchild' may pass the phone to his 'lawyer' who urges the victim to send money or their grandson will spend a few nights in jail.
- A caller pretends to be a sheriff or other official and tells the victim that they missed jury duty. To avoid arrest, they can send in the 'fine' amount.

These are a very old confidence games—but they continue to work. Don't be tricked by these thieves. Residents should keep the following in mind whenever the phone rings:

1. You do not have to answer your phone. If you have caller ID, look at it, and if you don't recognize the caller, ignore the phone.
2. Never!!! repeat never (as in never, ever) give any personal information to anyone who calls you. Bad things will happen. Don't do it. Period. Ignore the call.
3. If you happen to answer the phone and are faced with a live-action 'grandson' (or some other version of thief) asking for money, hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

Montgomery County Public Schools open on Monday, August 31. Please keep the following in mind as you drive:

- *Don't drive distracted.* Put aside the electronic devices and fully focus on driving. Reading or sending a text or using a handheld cell phone when you are behind the wheel will earn you a citation.
- *Don't drive distracted.* Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while reading or sending a text. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field.
- *Don't drive distracted.* Don't let anything divert your attention and be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- Failure to stop for a stopped school bus with flashing red lights carries a \$570 fine and three points. Village officers will be increasing patrol of school bus stops to catch violators.
- If you witness an unsafe driver in the Village, note the tag number and report it to the Village Police Department.