



# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

November 7, 2018

MAPLE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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<http://www.maplevalleywa.gov/departments-services/police-department>  
[policeinfo@maplevalleywa.gov](mailto:policeinfo@maplevalleywa.gov)

## Grandparent Scam

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 he/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.

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.

Here are a few tips to help detect or avoid the Grandparent Scam:

- 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, money order, or gift cards. Any urgent request to wire money should be treated suspiciously.
  - In the gift card method the grandchild is asking the Grandparent to purchase gift cards then give the gift card number to them or the supposed attorney.
- 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).
- Your Maple Valley Police Department is also a great resource to get to the truth of the matter. Please call 425-413-5158.

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## Safe Winter Driving

### **PREPARE**

- **Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread & pressure, windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- **Have On Hand:** flashlight, chains or snow tires, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food, water, medication, and don't forget your cell phone.
- **Stopped or Stalled?** Do a full light check before you drive this winter. Normal, fog, hazards and bright lights need to be in working order. You want other cars to see you if you are stopped on the roadway. If you or others have to stay in the car, make sure the exhaust pipe is clear from any snow or objects and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan Your route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.  
<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/>
- **Practice Cold Weather Driving**
  - Keep your windows clear. Don't start driving until the windows are defrosted and clean - even if you're only going a short distance
  - During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
  - Know what your brakes will do. Get the feel of the road by starting out slowly and testing your steering control and braking ability. Remember that snow tires will slide on ice or packed snow so keep your distance.

### **PROTECT YOURSELF**

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 13 and under are much safer in the back seat;
  - <https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips>

### **PREVENT CRASHES**

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving
  - If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.

# THANK YOU FOR REPORTING



As a victim of crime your safety is important to us. When you report a crime it could bring the person who committed the crime to justice. It can also help to prevent further crimes and protect others from becoming victims, in addition to possibly help solve your case or another case.

All crimes and anti-social behavior have a negative effect and reporting them can help the problem be addressed. The information we collect also assists us in directing our extra patrols in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for your neighborhood.

#### You can file your non-emergent police report online

The Maple Valley Police contracts police services with the King County Sheriff's Office and offers the option of filing your non-emergent police report online. This option is available for citizens who live in Unincorporated King County or in any of the participating cities the King County Sheriff's Office provides police services for. When you file your qualifying report using our website, once it has been approved you will be able to print a copy of your report absolutely free!

#### You May File Online If The Crime:

- Is not an emergency
- Is not in-progress
- Occurred in Unincorporated King County or within city limits of participating agencies
- There are no known suspects
- No evidence was left behind
- This did not occur on a freeway
- Did not occur on Metro or Sound Transit
- You are the victim of the crime
- You have a valid email address

Reports may be filed in English, Cambodian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Online reporting is available at: [www.ReportToSheriff.org](http://www.ReportToSheriff.org)

If your crime does not meet the requirements listed above, please call (206) 296-3311 so they may help you with your report.



## Maple Valley Hometown Holidays

Thursday, December 6th 2018 - 6:00- 8:30pm

4 Corners is the location for the **Maple Valley Hometown Holidays** event. You will see and enjoy the lighted Spruce that will brighten the 4 corners area through the beginning of January. We are excited to host thousands of citizens at our fourth annual event (rain or shine)! Please join us and enjoy the many rides, photo opportunities, activities, treats, holiday music and the community camaraderie. Visit [HERE](#) for more information.

## City of Maple Valley Crime Facts

To locate crime activities in your particular neighborhood please visit;



Please tune in to our [Facebook](#) page for additional police news and helpful information.