

April 2007

## INTERNET SECURITY

The openness of the Internet has dramatically transformed global communications, making it easy for people around the world to exchange information. But the very same openness also creates an enormous problem. Anyone can access the network, yet not everyone has good intentions. Some engage in malicious mischief by unleashing destructive software programs, while others view hacking computer networks as sport. Then there are people with criminal goals in mind. To avoid becoming a victim of misguided pranksters or cyber-crime, take the time to examine the security of your personal data. Here are some recommendations and more detailed information:

### Use anti-virus software.

Viruses spread rapidly and can damage or destroy your computer. New ones appear almost daily. It's critical that you install and update anti-virus software regularly. Use the program to scan all the files on your system once a week, deleting the infected ones.

### Protect your passwords.

Many online services, such as banking, brokerage and e-mail require the use of passwords. A secure password is the first line of defense against cyber-snoops. Use a different password for each account, don't divulge them to anyone and change them periodically. Learn more.

### Be wary of e-mail attachments.

A virus can hide in an attachment. Opening it will unleash the virus. Don't open an attachment from anyone you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, an infected attachment may have been surreptitiously sent from an infected machine. The safest thing to do is to scan the attachment with anti-virus software *before* you open it.

### Back up your data.

Make copies of your files in case they become corrupted, your system fails or your computer is damaged or stolen. Get in the habit of doing this regularly, at least once a week.

SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY



GARDEN CITY POLICE  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY-911

POLICE 793-1700

DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710

CITY HALL 793-1600

21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680

BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650

CITY CLERK 793-1620

LIBRARY 793-1830

MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850

PARKS & REC. 793-1880

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Update security patches for your operating system and web browser.

You've probably read about security "holes" that turn up periodically. Once they are discovered, you can download fixes. For Windows users, an easy way to update your system is click on the Windows Update option under the Start menu or by pointing your web browser to this link: <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>.

### Install a firewall on your computer.

A firewall is a software program that blocks unauthorized access to your computer. This is particularly important if you have a broadband connection, such as DSL or a cable modem. Windows XP has a built-in firewall, so make sure it's activated if you use that operating system. If not, we recommend ZoneAlarm. You can download it for free for personal use from Zone Labs.

### Log offline when you are done for the day.

You are most vulnerable when connected to the Net. If there isn't a good reason to remain online, disconnect from the network.

Follow these tips and you will enhance your personal security and the health of your PC.

Thank you, Detective Sergeant Brian Aure'

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / CITY CRIME STATS

### March Crime Statistics

Arson 1	Robbery 3
Breaking & Entering 12	Public Peace 25
Larceny 26	Fraud 16
Sexual Assault 1	Drugs 5
Stolen Vehicles 6	Property Damage 15
Assaults 37	Drunk Driving 5
Murder 0	

The numbers listed are statistic for the entire city during the month listed