Protect Yourself from Fraud and Theft

In recent months, the Stayton Police Department has seen an increase in theft and fraud crimes. Generally, theft is a crime of opportunity and criminals look for the easy “grab.” They are looking for items such as wallets and purses left in unlocked cars, sitting unattended in locker rooms or a shopping cart.

During the cold weather, it’s common for people to leave their car running in the driveway or in front of a convenience store while going in to grab a quick cup of coffee or snack. While it seems convenient to leave your car running to defrost or stay warm, it’s also very quick and convenient for a criminal to hop in and drive off with your car.

There has been an increase in internet and phone call fraud. If you see a deal that is too good to be true, it probably is. If you receive a phone call from a person identifying themselves as a public official requesting you wire them money, this is fraud and you shouldn’t do it. Legitimate government officials will not require you to pay for something over the phone, wire money or pay with a money order. If in doubt, don’t hesitate to contact the Police Department and we will be happy to help you determine if the request you’re receiving is fraud.

Here are a few quick reminders:

- Lock up your valuables.
- Only leave your car running if it’s locked with an alarm on.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Never hesitate to contact the Stayton Police Department if this happens to you by calling our non-emergency line at (503) 769-3421 and report the crime as soon as possible.
Got Overdue Book Fines? Join us for Food for Fines!
The Stayton Public Library will be accepting food for fines the week of March 5th through March 10th.
Library patrons can reduce their overdue fines and help hungry neighbors at the same time. Library fines will be reduced by $1 for each food item contributed. Food cannot be used to reduce fines by more than $20, or to cover other charges such as lost or damaged items or special fees.
All food items must be commercially processed, factory sealed, and be free of dents, rust, and not expired. All donations will be given to the Stayton Community Food Bank.

Transportation System Plan Update Underway
A city’s Transportation System Plan (TSP) contains the policies for future transportation system improvements as the city grows. Stayton’s TSP was last adopted in 2004 and assumed a level of growth that exceeded what the City has experienced in the past 14 years. The updated TSP will be based on population growth projections produced last year by Portland State University. The TSP update will include projections for traffic flow and recommendations for improvements to the streets, sidewalks, and other transportation facilities within the City’s urban growth boundary.
The City has recently contracted with Kittelson Associates to begin the process of updating the TSP. As part of the process the City Council will be appointing a Public Advisory Committee to review the consultant’s work and assist in developing the policies and implementation strategies contained in the plan. The five to seven member committee will have three or five evening meetings over the course of the next 18 months as the draft TSP update is developed.
The City is seeking residents who are interested in participating in this process.
If you are interested in serving on the Public Advisory Committee, please go www.staytonoregon.gov/pages/gov_boards_commissions to download a Board & Committee Member application. For more information or questions on the TSP update, please contact Director of Planning and Development Dan Fleishman at (503) 769-2998 or Public Works Director Lance Ludwig at (503) 769-2919.

Pay Your Utility Bill Online—Xpress Bill Pay
Don’t forget to sign-up to pay your Utility Bill online with our new payment service provider, Xpress Bill Pay. Signing up is quick and easy by visiting the City’s website at www.staytonoregon.gov and look for the banner “New Online Payment Provider — Xpress Bill Pay.”
Customers who have previously used Payment Service Network (PSN) will need to set up a new account with Xpress Bill Pay to continue paying your account online.