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Asheville Security Systems with over 260 years of combined experience

## NEW YEARS RESOLUTION: USE YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM!



EJ Mashburn, President

**SERVING  
 WESTERN  
 NORTH  
 CAROLINA  
 SINCE 1968**

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**I**t seems that every news-letter, I end up asking, pleading and begging in an attempt to educate or warn you about possible problems or ways we can help you. This article is no different! You have to help yourself because all I can do is encourage you to **USE YOUR ALARM SYSTEM.**

I recently talked to a client who shared a tragic experience. After installing their security system, the family armed the burglar alarm every time they left their home and every night as they should. After many years they became complacent and only used their system when traveling or when the husband was out of town.

You guessed it, one day they left to run a couple of errands expecting to be gone less than 30 minutes. Oh, the poor husband! His wife asked

if he thought they should turn on the alarm before going. He said "No, we'll only be gone a few minutes".

The few minutes was all it took for a flat screen TV, two computers and two jewelry boxes to disappear. One of the computers had all their personal information including previous years tax returns, online banking info, retirement account info and stock portfolio.



They spent days closing accounts, cancelling credit & debit cards, contacting credit reporting companies and numerous other time consuming hassles.

They were fortunate that the information was not used. They did not have jewelry riders on their insurance. The only reimbursement received was hundreds of dollars instead of the many thousands the jewelry was worth.

The worst part was the sentimental value could never be replaced by any amount of money. Some of the jewelry was very unique. They called and visited pawn shops and jewelry stores but turned up nothing

So **PLEASE USE YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM** and end up with happy results like several of our clients who did arm their security system. In most cases the only hassle was having a door or window glass replaced.

We want to hear your cheerful stories so again,

**PLEASE USE YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM.**

## AVOIDING SCAMS

**W**arnings are being issued to beware of calls from alleged utility company workers who tell you about a new President Obama federal program. Consumers are being contacted through telephone calls, fliers, social media, text messages and other forms of communications. The worker claims that the federal program is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills.

To receive the money, scammers say they need

your Social Security and bank routing and/or account number. You are then instructed on the process to pay your utility bills and receive a credit.



Thousands throughout the country have already been defrauded. Avoid this and any type of scam by following these suggestions:

- Never provide your social security number, credit card numbers or banking information to anyone contacting you regardless of who they say they represent. If pressured, just hang up and call the customer service of the company the caller claimed to rep-

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resent and discuss the subject with them.

- Never allow anyone into your home to check utilities or appliances unless you have scheduled an appointment. **Always ask for proper identification.** (A personal experience involved a customer who scheduled a repair and left the housekeeper with instructions to "let the serviceman" in. When two people showed up at the door, the housekeeper asked "You the repairmen?" They answered, "Yes". She let them in to do service and left them alone! After they

left, the real servicemen arrived and the homeowner found they lost jewelry and cash. The police told the homeowner they had numerous reports of teams canvassing the area for scamming opportunities. **ALWAYS ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION.**)

"Never provide your social security number, credit card numbers or banking information to anyone contacting you"

- Think security first. Do not give into high-pressure tactics for information or allow any person into your home without prior appointments.

It seems every few months a new scam comes along. The common element is to get your personal financial information. If someone calls with a new opportunity, tell them you will call the companies customer service. Don't fall for "Unfortunately, this offer is only available now and will not be offered again." This is a ploy to get you to act now with no time to consider the pros and cons.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't compromise your personal information by reaching for a one-time deal.

*By The Editor*

## YOUR HOME SECURITY

**Y**our home's security involves more than the security system installed by Asheville Security Systems. There are many things you can do to make your home even more uninviting to potential burglars.

Your security system is the center of your home security that provides you with peace of mind knowing that an intrusion will be detected and transmitted to authorities and you. This is the first step that will deter an intruder but what else can be done?

A trimmed yard gives no place for an intruder to hide. Removing or trimming overgrown bushes in front of windows will not only increase your security but will give your home curb appeal and increase it's value at sale time.

Keeping all windows closed and

locked while away is another good practice. A partially opened window is an invitation to a burglar. They don't have to break in, just open the window without being detected. In addition, if you have internal motion detectors, an open window could cause false alarms.

Outdoor lighting activated by infrared motion sensors is another good deterrent. What intruder sticks around after lighting is activated around your home? Yeah, they probably know it's automatic but they're exposed and intruders like to operate in the dark.

The central idea is to make your home uninviting. The way you accomplish this is to start your deterrent as far from your home as you can. An intruder starts with a drive-by to pick a home to

violate. If they don't see areas to be secluded, your home goes down on the list.

A trimmed yard, with a home that has visibility and signs saying that your home is secured with your Asheville Security System advertises that you are serious about your security. Burglars tend to bypass this type of home.

Need protected by yard signs or window sticker? Give us a call or email [newsletter@ashevillesecurity.com](mailto:newsletter@ashevillesecurity.com)



*For your protection, use your security system. It can only protect you when it's turned on.*

### EMAIL FORM

Use this form to apply for the following or send your request via email:

Email to: [info@ashevillesecurity.com](mailto:info@ashevillesecurity.com)

- E-Billing, (get your bill by email)
- Online Newsletters (provides a link to our current newsletter)
- Update Notification (learn the latest information specific to your alarm system)
- Request additional information on wireless alarm monitoring'

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Privacy Policy: Your information will remain secured in our database and used ONLY for the purpose you designated.

