

## Money From the IRS!

You receive an e-mail from the IRS that states something like this:

After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity, we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of \$537.50...please submit the form attached to your e-mail in order to finish your tax refund (or a link may be provided for you to go to a certain website for verification of information to complete the refund process)...

### Regards, Internal Revenue Service

It seems legitimate. After all, the IRS' official seal is on it. The form attached (or link) asks for personal identity information – your address, your place of birth, a parent's maiden name, your social security number, your bank account number where you'd like the money deposited to. Didn't you give some of this information to the IRS last tax season? You start to get suspicious. You've heard to never give out this type of personal information unless you're certain it's secure – and legitimate.

The IRS **does not** send unsolicited e-mails to taxpayers about their accounts. These types of e-mails (and sometimes pop-ups) are called "**phishing**", and are falsely sent out in

order to scam people into giving private information that can be used for identity theft to run up bills or commit crimes in his or her name. There's been an increased number of these lately, so be on the alert. If you receive an e-mail like this, do not open it. Sometimes a Trojan or other malware might instantly infect your computer. These can search your computer for personal information such as passwords, which get sent to the scammer who will use them to gain access to your bank accounts and more. They can also give remote access to your computer.

- Anyone who receives an e-mail like this should report it immediately by forwarding it to: [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).
- If you think you may already be a victim of identity theft, find out what to do at:  
[www.OnGuardOnLine.gov](http://www.OnGuardOnLine.gov).
- You can file a complaint at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov), and then visit the FTC's Identity Theft Web site at:  
[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft).
- If you are the victim of identity theft, it will often show up on your credit report. For details on ordering a free annual credit report, go to:  
[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

Don't become a tax scam victim...if it's sounds too good to be true, it most likely is. **Source: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)**





## December Safety Do's and Don'ts...

- **Do** get your car winter-ready. Have it tuned up, check the antifreeze level, make sure the battery is good, check the wiper blades and check your tire tread.
- **Don't** leave your car running to warm it up (or to keep it warmed up) while it is unattended...this means outside your home, business, friend's home, etc. Don't leave your purse, wallet, cell phone, GPS device, or other personal items laying in plain view in your vehicle.
- **Do** keep your lights on timers...it's dark earlier and longer now, and having lights on timers (inside and out) can help keep you safe. It makes it look like someone is home, and it's harder for someone to hide in well-lit places.
- **Don't** tell everyone your traveling plans ... Facebook, MySpace and other Internet social networking spots are NOT the place to post out of town plans, photos of your current travels, etc.
- **Do** let the Merriam Police know if you (this includes businesses) are going out of town by using their House Check program. You can come to the Police Department during business hours to fill out the form. You can download it ahead of time at:  
[www.merriam.org/MPD/Community-Policing/documents/HouseCheck.pdf](http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Community-Policing/documents/HouseCheck.pdf)
- **Don't** drink and drive. Driving while under the influence can lead to a DUI...which can cost you in more ways than one. Who wants to spend the night in jail, risk losing the privilege of driving, incur court fees, and even risk losing his or her job? Imagine spending the rest of your life with the guilt of injuring - or worse - an innocent person (or more) in the car you hit because you were drunk.
- **Do** find a designated driver BEFORE you party. Ask someone to help keep you accountable and to take away your keys if you start to drink. Bringing in 2010 can be fun - just don't start the new year with regrets.
- **Don't** drive fast through the fog, snow or ice. Just breathe deeply and take the extra time needed to be safe. It'll take a lot longer to get to your destination if you end up in a ditch, or spin out into oncoming traffic.
- **Do** have an emergency kit in your car...including jumper cables, a flashlight (with working batteries), sand or kitty litter (for traction), blankets, hats and gloves, packaged food (such as cereal bars, bottled water, warning devices (flares, reflectors, etc.)). Carry your cell phone with you at all times.

## SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Save the crime drama for TV shows this holiday season by protecting yourself while shopping:

- Don't Shop Alone - be safe and take a friend or two along
- Carry wallets/cash/bank cards in your front pocket
- Don't wear expensive jewelry/watches
- Don't carry large amounts of cash
- Stay alert at all times - don't talk (or text) on phones when in your car or walking in parking lots or garages
- Leave purses at home if possible, or use ones with straps long enough to put across your body
- Notify credit card issuers immediately if your cards are stolen/lost/misused
- Keep packages hidden in your trunk (or take stuff home and come back again)
- Park in well-lit areas; don't shop after dark if you can avoid it
- Don't let your children out of your sight; have a plan in case you get separated

**Source:**  
[www.crime.about.com](http://www.crime.about.com)





# Crime Statistics

## From November 16-30, 2009

### **Warrant Arrests:** 40

#### **DUI Arrests:**

- 75th & I-35
- 75th & I-35
- 67th & I-35
- 47th & Knox
- 98th & W. 62nd
- 62nd & Antioch
- Johnson Drive & I-35
- 10300 & W. 75th

#### **Residential Burglary:**

- 98th & W. 60th Street
- 79th & W. 67th Street

#### **Auto Accidents:**

- 52nd & Merriam
- 67th & I-35
- 63rd & I-35
- Johnson Drive & Hemlock
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Slater
- 75th & Switzer
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Hadley
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Merriam
- Johnson Drive & Knox
- 63rd Street & I- 35
- 55th & Antioch
- 75th & I-35

#### **Non-injury Hit and Run:**

- 94th & W. 53rd Street

#### **Auto Burglary:**

- 55th & Antioch
- 58th & Hadley

#### **Criminal Damage to Auto:**

- 10000th & I-35

#### **Possession of Controlled Substance:**

- 88th & Johnson Drive
- 50th & Antioch
- 55th & Antioch
- 93rd & Johnson Drive

#### **Business Burglary:**

- 57th & Merriam Drive
- 67th & Antioch
- 67th & Antioch

#### **Criminal Damage to Property:**

- 60th & Slater - Gang Graffiti (spray painting)
- 72nd & Eby (Damage to auto - attempt to pry open door)

#### **Criminal Use of Financial Information:** 3

**Crime Alert:** If someone calls asking you to wire money to them...don't do it unless you are 100 percent that they are who they claim to be (your grandson, niece, etc.) and that you are really ready to risk losing your money if they aren't.

#### **Animal Control Calls:**

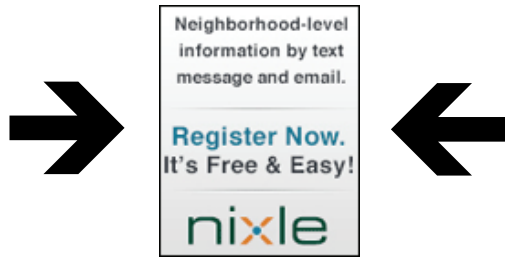
Ill Raccoon; loose dogs

#### **Criminal Trespass:**

- 55th & Antioch

#### **Stolen Vehicle from Kansas City, MO:**

Suspect apprehended in stolen vehicle in Merriam, and transported to the Adult Detention Center



The Merriam Police Department is trying to contact you...not because you're in trouble, but because there are times when something important is going on in the Merriam community that you need to know about as soon as possible.

It's free and it's easy to sign up for "Nixle", the service that lets you get these important news via text messages & emails. Sign up now at: <http://local.nixle.com/register/>

Whether you work, live, go to school, hang out with friends, shop, dine, or have family and friends in Merriam...Nixle is for you. **Don't receive today's pressing news tomorrow!**

### Why a Crime Bulletin?

**The Merriam Police Department operates under the "Community Policing Philosophy"...**

This means we are committed to providing the highest quality of police services by partnering with you - the citizens of our community. Together, we work as a team to maintain a high quality of living in Merriam, keeping it a safe place to be. This crime bulletin lets us share information with you, helping us reach these goals. We hope you forward this to others who will find it interesting and useful!

The Police Department asks you to report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1. Go to: <http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Patrol/report-a-crime.htm> for ways to report non-emergency crimes.

**Crime affects us all -  
be part of the solution!**



9010 W. 62nd Street  
Merriam, Kansas 66202  
Station: 913.322.5560  
Dispatch: 913.782.0720  
Emergency: 911  
police@merriam.org

Station Hours:  
Mon. - 8AM to 6PM  
Tues. thru Fri. - 7AM to 9PM  
Sat. - 10AM to 6PM  
Sun. - CLOSED

**Prepared by Suzette Mack**

