

## HEAR IT! SEE IT! REPORT IT!

The Wyckoff Police Department would like to remind every one that with the holidays upon us, we need to keep in mind some general and basic Home Security practices. Nationally, burglars enter a house, apartment or condominium every 15 seconds. Do not let your home become another statistic. Burglars look for what we call "targets of opportunity" - in other words, easy pickings.

- **To protect yourself, make your home look occupied when you are away.** Chances are, thieves will not burglarize your home if they think you are there. One way to accomplish this is to depend on a trustworthy neighbor while you are gone. Here are some specific measures you can take to help protect your personal belongings.
- **Keep track of your keys.** Do not leave a key under your doormat, flower pot or on a window ledge. Burglars look there first. Never leave an ignition key in your car, and never put a house key on your ignition key ring.
- **Keep garage doors closed and locked.** Even when you are home, a locked garage door helps protect valuable property stored in your garage. If you are to be gone for any length of time, consider disconnecting electric door openers and putting a padlock on the garage door track.
- **Park a car in the driveway.** If you have a second car, leave it in the driveway, or if you do not, ask a neighbor to park there. To help avoid vandalism to the vehicle and the appearance that no one is home, be sure the car is moved periodically.
- **Do not let deliveries accumulate.** Have a neighbor pickup mail, newspapers, packages, and circulars daily. If that is not possible, have all deliveries stopped so they do not pile up.
- **Have your driveway and walks taken care of.** When it snows, shoveled driveways and walks give the appearance that some one is home. Make arrangements if needed, to have this taken care of if you're away.
- **Keep shrubbery trimmed.** Thick, tall shrubbery provides cover for burglars and lets them work undetected.
- **Leave a radio on.** If you will be gone for extended periods, you may want to leave a radio playing, or even connect a television to a timer so that it goes on and off at different times.
- **Secure all doors and windows.** Make sure all doors are properly secured and locked.
- **Get automatic timers.** Interior and exterior lights are one of the best visual deterrents to protect your property. Timers add an extra benefit of programmability.
- **Adjust the volume of your telephone ringer.** By turning it to the lowest level, or even off, a prowler will be less likely to hear an unanswered call. If you have an answering machine, be sure the message does not let anyone know you are not home.

The Wyckoff Police department wants to remind our residents that **we provide home security surveys free of charge** and can help you with making your home and property a safer place.

**For a free survey, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 201-891-2121.**