



WHAT WORKS

Unlocked doors, open garage doors and open windows are an invitation for people to steal your belongings. Burglars who break into homes usually don't commit their crime at night, unless it's to a vehicle. They don't want a confrontation with you. That is why the majority of home burglaries occur during the day. Burglars do not usually wear masks like you may see on television. Burglars look and dress like everyone else. It is up to you to keep a vigilant eye out for people who don't "belong" in your neighborhood.

A case in point occurred in December. A resident who lives in an area that does not have Neighborhood Watch saw two males walking around her neighbors' house around 4:45 in the afternoon. She didn't recognize them as living in the area and called the police. When the police arrived on the scene both men, who were in their late 30's and early 40's, fled on foot. After a K-9 track both suspects were arrested for burglary. Had it not been for the neighbor watching out and calling the police immediately the suspects might never have been apprehended. Another case

occurred in a new Neighborhood Watch area on Lee Road. In this instance a resident saw two males loitering and hiding between cars in the parking lot of an apartment complex. The resident called the police and after a short chase both suspects were arrested for loitering and prowling. If neighbors continue to get involved like these two did then together we can reduce the incidents of crime in Winter Park.



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Special Points

Of Interest

There are a number of resources you can use to help safeguard your vehicle from being stolen. Using a device that immobilizes the steering wheel is a deterrent. While not visible like a steering wheel device, a car alarm as long as it is activated is likely to scare away anyone who tries to enter the vehicle. Another device is Lojack. This device will not prevent a vehicle theft, but it does help law enforcement to locate it. There are others too. Do your homework.

BE SMART. LOCK IT UP WINTER PARK

The Winter Park Police Department is continuing a new "Lock it Up!" campaign to educate residents and visitors of Winter Park on methods they may use to help reduce crime in our City. Unfor-

tunately crime in Central Florida appears to be on the rise. The Police Department wants to provide you with important information that would be useful to combat the problems that accompany

a rising crime rate. In November of 2007 there was a slight reduction in vehicle burglaries to unlocked vehicles. We believe that it was a combination of arrests, and more importantly, you and your neighbors locking your cars while parked in

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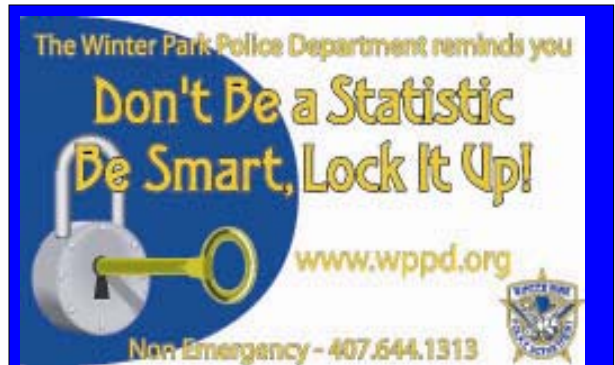
the driveway.

Please remember to lock your doors & windows. Help us help you by locking every door and window in your house when you leave, even for a short periods of time or while you work in the yard.

Keep your garage door, if you have one, closed at all times. Don't leave your cell phone, laptop, gun, etc in the car. If you must leave valuables in your car, secure them in the trunk.

Remember to call **911** every single time you see someone that is acting suspicious.

Together we can reduce the opportunities that criminals have to commit these crimes.



We're on the web!

www.wppd.org

Find out what crime is doing in your area. Log onto the web for residential crime statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE



In the past, domestic violence and child abuse have often been addressed as separate problems even though the issues are intertwined. In the past, child protection workers advocated for the safety of children and the preservation of the family, while domestic violence workers sought to protect women from their batterers. They did not always collaborate and rarely worked with the communities they served to develop family violence prevention

strategies. To make real change, community engagement strategies must be used to prevent family violence. Families and community members play crucial roles in preventing family violence. Abused women turn to extended family, friends, and neighbors before they reach out to organizations or professional service providers. Law enforcement, courts and child protection agencies are usually last on their list. Community members also know the cultural values, traditions, and practices that support violence, as well as those that can be used appropriately to intervene and stop violence.

Preventing family violence in the community takes several steps:

- Raising awareness of the problem and changing social norms that make violence acceptable
- Connecting community residents to services
- Changing community and social conditions that contribute to violence
- Building networks of leaders in the community

Making services and institutions accountable to community needs

(continued next page)

The Police Department has an obligation to investigate domestic violence calls and take appropriate action. This often includes taking the primary aggressor into custody. Once arrested, he or she must spend a minimum of 3 days in jail. This offers the victim time to move out of the residence, change phone numbers, get injunction orders against the aggressor and take steps to protect any children that may be affected by the situation. Neighbors often are aware of the abuse or at least loud verbal arguments that can lead to acts of violence. Family problems are often seen by many people as a private matter best resolved by the parties involved. Neighbors don't want to be nosey for fear of alienating them or branding them with a stigma. This reluctance to intervene is at the heart of domestic violence. The problem escalates with no intervention until violence occurs. If the police are called when an argument is only verbal, the officers can often diffuse the situation without making an arrest. Once someone is injured, or the threat of violence is present then by law officers must make an arrest.

Raising awareness of family violence is the first requirement in a community effort to keep your neighborhood safe. People are not going to get involved if they don't know there is a problem. Violence, domestic or otherwise, is often seen as a private problem but raising awareness allows others to understand the issue and do something about it. Call **911** when you first suspect family violence and you could keep a neighbor from being injured and your neighborhood safer. Don't wait until something happens.

SPRING BREAK

The following advice by the Police Department is to ensure your safety and security during the "season" commonly known as Spring Break. This time of year traditionally has been set aside for college-age people to enjoy a week long vacation from the rigors of intense studies and exams. All of academia now utilizes spring break as time off from kindergarten through high school. This also provides the opportunity for the parents to take vacation from work and perhaps travel and enjoy some family time. It is also a time when people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crimes. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. If you leave on vacation, be sure to contact the Communications Center of the Police Department (407-644-1313) to let us know so we can check on your home while you are away.

For some young people, drinking alcohol is a thrill or rite of passage as they grow older. Unless they are over 21 years of age it is also illegal. This school year has already seen many people under the legal drinking age being arrested for that crime in Winter Park. Drinking under the legal age is fraught with problems and dangerous outcomes. Underage parties often occur when the parents of high school or middle school-age children leave town for a weekend trip. When you see young people gathering at a house in your neighborhood, especially when the parents are gone, that is a good sign that an underage party is going to occur. Loud music and loud talking are also indicators of a party. Parents have been known to be present at these parties and even provide the alcohol. They believe that if kids are going to drink, they should be supervised.

This sends so many wrong messages to young people. Florida law allows officers to arrest the homeowner or anyone who resides at the home for having a party known as an "open house party", including the juvenile hosting the party if the parents are not home. An open house party occurs if at least 1 person present is under the age of 21 and alcohol is being served.



The city's Code Enforcement Division is also made aware of the party and any subsequent issues can also be addressed by code enforcement officers including the house being deemed a nuisance and fines being assessed to the owner. Your image in the neighborhood can also suffer if you choose to ignore the law. Additionally, civil suits can be brought against a homeowner if a person is injured by an underage person who attended the party and had been drinking. It is plain to see that allowing underage people to consume alcohol at your home has some very serious consequences. Please don't serve, or allow, alcohol at your home to anyone under the age of 21. Be a responsible neighbor; if you see the signs of underage drinking at a party please call the police immediately. Together we can keep our neighborhoods safe and possibly save a life.

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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“We're always there when you need us”

Community Policing

Services & Programs

C.A.T. Program: Enroll your vehicle in this free anti-theft program. This program allows police to stop a vehicle with a C.A.T. sticker on it if the vehicle is being driven between 1:00 am and 5:00 am, the time when most car thefts happen.

Business Watch: Business owners are offered anti-theft ideas, information regarding fraud, workplace violence & robbery issues, and become aware of current criminal trends.

House Check Program: If you are out of town more than a few days the Police Department will stop by your home (work load permitting) and check the exterior of it to ensure it is secure. If any problems are found, your emergency contact will be notified. This service is free. Contact the Police Communications Center at (407) 644-1313.

Ride-Along Program: Ride with an officer on a tour of duty. Riders must be at least 18 yrs. old and of good moral character. Contact Officer McDaniel @ (407) 599-3455. Riding is at the discretion of the Police Department.

Security Surveys: Officers of the Community Policing Unit will be glad to meet you at your home to offer advice for crime-proofing your home. Just call Officer McDaniel at 407-599-3455 to set it up.

MY MED ID FORMS

The Winter Park Police Department has recently begun distributing “my Med-ID” information pouches to City residents who are advanced in age or who have chronic medical conditions. The purpose of these forms is to provide a quick and easily accessible method for First Responders to access important medical information upon their arrival to a scene. This is specifically focused on the elderly population as it was designed and developed by the Seminole County Senior Triad with the cooperation of the Seminole County Emergency Medical Services and Dr. Todd Husty.

My Med-ID consists of an informational card that a person fills out that contains pertinent medical information including Blood type, Insurance information and known medical conditions as well as emergency contact information and administrative information regarding the existence of a Liv-

ing Will, Do Not Resuscitate orders and a Primary Doctors name and current medication. This card is then placed in the supplied brightly colored magnetic pouch and placed promiscuously in the home.

Additional information cards will be available on the department’s Web Site, thus allowing the user or their designee to print out the card as often as required as the information changes. If the user does not have access to a computer, additional “blank” information cards will be distributed from the Lobby of the police department.

Because people advanced in age often have reduced coordination and motor skills which often makes it difficult to fill out information in the small spaces, the information card was designed to be “elder friendly” by providing easy to read and large space for the entering of information.

The information card was de-

signed to ensure that as much pertinent information is available to assist the First Responders while “on scene”. Also, the “my MED-ID” form is a one-sided form thus affording the user to add any additional information on the opposite side that they would deem important for a First Responder to know. The information card for “my MED-ID” is a standard size of 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches which means that it is easily reproduced and copied thereby allowing duplicate forms to also be carried in a wallet or purse and the glove box of an automobile.

If you or any resident you know is interested obtaining one of these useful information pouches, please contact the Community Policing Unit at (407) 599-3311.