



## TAKE OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM THIEVES

It has been shown time and time again that the vast majority of property crimes (i.e. burglaries, thefts) are considered “crimes of opportunity”. As the label implies these are crimes that happen when a person creates an opportunity for the criminal. This takes form in a couple of different ways, one of which is by not locking doors and windows. In December of last year, the Community Services Division initiated the “Lock It Up” campaign to make our residents more aware of this problem. Before



beginning this campaign, thefts from unlocked vehicles and homes accounted for a majority of these crime types. Since the initiative the percentage of thefts from unlocked areas has dropped over 40%!

While this is a great start we are still seeing a large number of “crimes of opportunity” still hap-

pening, especially from vehicles. So what is precipitating this? The answer to this question is simple; many people generally tend to leave valuable items lying around in the open. Even though you locked your car, leaving things visible is enticing to criminals. In our fast paced society a lot of times we do not stop and think about the briefcase we tossed in the backseat or our laptop that we left on the passenger’s seat or even the GPS unit

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## SEX OFFENDER UPDATE

Rudolph Reise Jr. has moved out of state. His crimes were multiple counts of armed sexual battery. He was charged last year with failing to register as a sex offender and threatening a police officer.

Senor Stockstad has been

allowed to continue living at 1350 Michigan Av. per our city ordinance. His crime was soliciting a minor for sex via the internet.

Adam Chadwick moved into Park East Apartments on N. Knowles Av. but then moved after approximately two weeks.

He may still visit there periodically. His crime was possessing child pornography. He is allowed to live in the city per our city ordinance.

Kevin Laing is allowed to continue living at 2922 Parkland Ct. per our city ordinance. His crimes were sexual battery, indecent exposure and battery.

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### Special Points

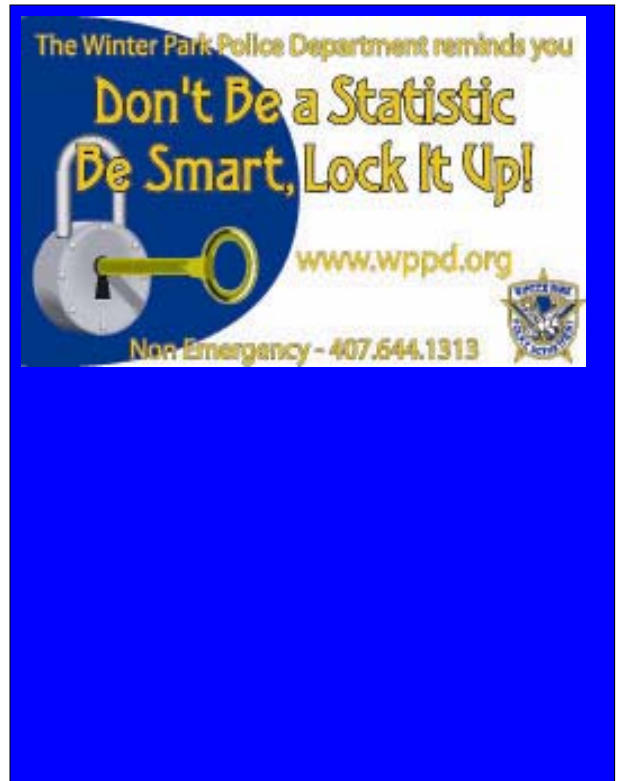
#### Of Interest

Remember, if you are going on vacation for more than a few days you can call our non-emergency phone number and put your home on our House Check list. Officers will stop by and check the perimeter of your home (workload permitting) while you are gone. The non-emergency phone number is 407-644-1313. Call us if you return sooner than expected so we can remove your address from our list. Enjoy your vacation!



hanging from the windshield. These types of items are what thieves look for. For a thief, it is an easy decision to break a window and steal the item(s) left out in the vehicle.

So how do we combat this? It's a simple idea, do not leave valuables out in plain view. Take a moment to secure items in your trunk, take them inside with you or at least move them to a location that is not visible to someone that might look into the vehicle. By taking these simple steps you can reduce the "opportunity" a criminal has and for you be coming a victim.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## SUMMER SAFETY/HOUSE CHECKS

Summer is almost here and that usually means vacation time for many people. Burglars know this too and look for homes that appear as if no one is home. If you go out of town for vacation strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible. You shouldn't broadcast to your plans to everyone, but tell at least one neighbor you trust when and where you are going and when you expect to return so they can look after your home while you are gone. Give the neighbor a spare key and leave your emergency contact phone number with them in case they need to reach you. Some people prefer to stop their mail and newspaper delivery during their vacation. If you do not wish to do this then arrange for

your neighbor to pick them up daily so they don't stack up. That is a sure sign no one is home.

Another idea many people don't think of is to lock up their sheds and garage doors, even the side doors. Many burglaries occur by suspects entering the garage through a side door and then going into the house. Some people announce they are leaving town on their answering machine. The Police Department strongly discourages this practice since it lets everyone who calls your house know that you are gone. If you normally keep your window blinds open when you are home keep them open when you are on vacation. This holds true for exterior lights as well. Don't alter your routine when you leave town. Obvious or drastic changes to your home alert potential burglars that you are gone. You may even want to ask your neighbor to occasionally park their car in your driveway so it gives the impression someone is home.

When you go away on vacation you may

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want to consider having your home put on the Police Department's Vacation House Check list. This is a very popular service we offer our residents and we encourage you to take advantage of it. If you are out of town more than a few days the Police Department will stop by your home (workload permitting) and check the exterior of it to ensure your home is secure. If any problems are found we will notify your emergency contact. Best of all this is a free service. To have your home placed on our Vacation House Check list please call our non-emergency number (407) 644-1313 to set it up.

## COMMUNITY POLICING?

The responsibilities that certain divisions within the Police department have are self evident by their name. For example the Traffic division deals with all things traffic and the Detective division investigates cases that are reported. But when you hear of the division called Community Policing, the purpose of the unit is not so apparent. The Community Policing Unit is responsible for many different facets of the Police Department.



Two gang members

These officers are assigned to the elementary schools, Ninth grade center and the High school as well as the Police Explorer program.

The rest of the unit is responsible for a host of other tasks including: Neighborhood Watch, Neighborhood & Commercial crime prevention, Bicycle patrol, Sexual offender monitoring, Crime Prevention seminars, Professional Standards, Department training, Recruitment and Hiring, Business Watch, Gang intelligence, Media Relations, Fingerprinting, Public Information Officers, maintaining the Department Volunteer and Internship programs, Internal and External Department Communications, Maintaining the Department website, Intra-City department Liaisons, Background Investigations, and the Citizen's Police Academy.



Mock Bank Robbery presentation being conducted.

Due to the scope & variety of the division's tasks, officers work a variety of hours fulfilling the Division's responsibilities. So the next time you hear reference to the Department's Community Policing Unit, you now have an idea of what they are all about.



Officer conducting home security survey.

## SECURING YOUR PROPERTY THE NATURAL WAY

Spring and summer are synonymous with gardening and this year as you plan to landscape your yard, make some choices to help secure your property. Crime Prevention Through Environmental or (CPTED) is the practice of manipulating the physical environment to produce behavioral effects that reduce crime.

Reducing crime around your property does not always need to be painful in the pocket book. The simple placement of "hostile vegetation" (thorny plants) for example, holly, cactus, saw grass or bougainvillea in areas around your home (below windows and along fences) will help discourage

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## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

### Published Quarterly by

The Winter Park Police Department

500 North Virginia Avenue

Winter Park, Florida 32789

(407) 644-1313 Non Emergency Number

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*“We're always there when you need us”*

unwanted persons from trespassing. If you already have mature landscaping in place, you should try to adhere to the two foot/six foot rule. This rule essentially states that all ground cover should be trimmed so that it is no higher than two feet off the ground and that tree canopy should be trimmed so that it is a minimum of six feet above the ground. By following these guidelines, you should be able to maintain an unhindered view across your property thus eliminating possible hiding spots for



An example of plants that don't follow the 2 foot/six foot rule.

potential criminals.

Lighting is another way to reduce the potential of criminal activity on your property. Since nearly 90% of all crime occurs after dark, effective lighting around your home can serve as a major detractor to a potential burglar. Flood lights placed on the corners of your home with motion detectors attached will help aid in securing your property. Additionally, lights in the vicinity of your exterior doors will call attention to your property and help serve as a deterrent to any nefarious activity.

The Community Policing Unit performs both residential and commercial security surveys for the residents and businesses within the City limits. If you're interested in a survey for your property or have questions re-

## 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.

garding Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, please feel free to contact the Police Department.

