

Tips to help keep our Community, Homes and Cars safe.

There have been a number of recent burglaries, vandalism, and other incidents on the Northshore. Please be sure to secure your home and vehicles at all times, and to always call 911 to report suspicious activity. If you see something, say something.

Follow these tips to help keep our community, homes and cars safe:

If you are traveling...

- Set an automatic timer for your lights.
- Lock all home and car doors - *this is a must!* Criminals look for easy targets and will often move past a locked car or home to find the one that is unlocked.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight - in your home or car.
 - Make sure your garage door is down when you leave.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your property.
- Stop your deliveries, including newspapers and magazines, and ask the Post Office to hold or forward your mail.
- Use your burglar alarm each time you leave your home.
- If planning an extended trip, consider hiring a landscaper or asking a neighbor to mow your lawn.

If you are out for the evening.

- Turn on lights or a radio or TV so it appears someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you are out, even if it is just for a quick trip to the store or walk the dog.
- Keep your garage door closed.
- Never leave your purse or other valuables in your car. It takes a thief only moments to break in.
- Use your burglar alarm.

If you're at home.

- Keep outside lights on and the exterior of your home well lit.
- Lock all home and car doors - again, *this is a must!*
- Keep your garage door closed when not in use.
- Use your burglar alarm.
- Report unknown or suspicious cars, noises and people. Call 911! Don't doubt yourself and follow your instincts.
- If you have a home video surveillance system, make sure the system is on and operating properly.
- If you know of a neighbor that might have been a crime victim, check your home surveillance system and notify public safety of anything of evidentiary value your system might provide.

General tips...

- Keep your door in plain view. Cut back overgrown plants and shrubs, which can serve as places for burglars to hide as they gain access to your home.
- Dead-bolts are the best option for all doors leading in or out of your home. Consider flush bolts for extra safety or consider using a door stop security system.
- Keep your garage door closed when home or when you leave home.
- Lock valuables in a safe and make a precise list of valuable items and their approximate value.
- Start a group text with neighbors on your street to share information or concerns.
- Join social networks such as NEXTDOOR, or Facebook, to share information.
- Call 911 if you have an incident at your home. It is important that all incidents are recorded.

**If you are interested in volunteering for a neighborhood watch program, please email GNO - dj@gnoproperty.com*