

TANNER'S CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TIPS

Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood awareness, and common sense can help prevent most property crimes.

THE BASICS

- Stay alert.
- Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you. Don't get distracted.
- Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave it.

LOCKS, DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Install and use good deadbolt locks in your doors (about half of all burglars enter through unlocked doors and windows).
- Secure sliding glass doors with locks or a rigid wooden dowel wedged in the track.
- Lock double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail into a hole drilled at a downward angle through the top of each sash and into the frame.

OUTSIDE

- Trim back shrubbery hiding doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb to second story windows.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well lighted.
- Maintain the neighborhood. Dark alleys, litter, and rundown areas attract criminals.

GOING AWAY

- Make your home appear occupied when you go out.
- Leave lights on - Use timing devices to turn inside lights on and off.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- If you will be gone several days, arrange to have the mail and papers stopped or picked up. Half of all home burglaries occur during the day when alert neighbors could spot and report the thieves.
- Utilize the HPD Security Check Program.

KEY SENSE

- Do not hide house keys in mail boxes, planters, or under doormats.
- Do not put personal identification on key rings.
- If you lose the keys to your home or move into a new home, change the locks immediately.

CAR SENSE

- Park in well-lighted areas and lock your doors, no matter how long you'll be gone.
- Put valuables out of sight or in the trunk.
- When parking or returning to your vehicle, carry your keys and be aware of your surroundings.

ANSWERING THE DOOR

- Install a peephole or viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Do not trust door chains. They can be easily broken.
- Don't open the door to anyone you don't know. Insist service personnel verify their identity before allowing them in.

WHAT YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS CAN DO TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

- Make sure that all the youth in the neighborhood have positive ways to spend their spare time, through organized recreation, tutoring programs, part-time work, and volunteer opportunities.
- Make it possible for neighbors to report suspicious activity or crimes without fear of retaliation.
- Clean up the neighborhood! Involve everyone; teens, children, senior citizens. Graffiti, litter and abandoned cars tell criminals that you don't care about where you live or each other.
- Work with schools to establish drug-free, gun-free zones; work with recreation officials to do the same for parks.
- Develop and share a phone list of local organizations that can provide counseling, job training, guidance, and other services that neighbors might need.