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**THE SALEM CITY
CRIME PREVENTION
CONNECTION**

SALEM CITY
POLICE

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Graduation Time - already?

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Hard to believe, but it's time for graduation and along with the congratulatory events and activities, come the parties. However, for some, their graduation will signify not just the end of high school, but sadly the end of life.



It can be easy for a celebratory occasion to spin into a party of alcohol and other dangerous activities. A feeling of being invincible can envelope the new graduate and a belief that nothing can ruin their special day.

Before a graduation story turns into a story of sorrow, act now and talk with your graduate about their planned celebrations and the events they are going to participate in. Find opportunities, while keeping in the realm of "fun" (what they would consider fun!) by offering alternative events that emphasize an alcohol-free environment.

While teens seldom like to hear the harsh realities of operating a vehicle under the influence, the facts are the facts and laying out not only the potential of injury but the personal costs of underage drinking and driving while under the influence when it comes to colleges, employment and permanent impacts on their lives.

Congratulations to your graduate!

HOME SECURITY 101 It's Vacation Time!

A trip just down the road to grandma's house, a trip to another state or maybe even a journey to a far off land; any of these can turn a good summer into a great summer! However, there are others who are not looking to travel but to have a very lucrative summer. You guessed it; burglars and thieves!



With the expectation that some residents will be gone for a day, a week or maybe even longer, the burglars can be on the prowl looking for the tell-tale signs that say "we're gone on vacation!" So let's give these criminals what they DON'T want, the impression that you're at home!

Start with your neighbor connections. Make sure your trusted neighbors know you will be gone, provide them with emergency contact numbers and ask them to keep an eye on your home. While you're there, ask them to keep an eye out for any mail or newspapers that may be accumulating and ask them to pick them up as soon as possible. You can also offer them a parking place - your driveway! A vehicle routinely moved in and out of the driveway gives burglars driving by the impression that someone is home or at least frequently checking the house.

Next, prepare your home with the "lived in look." Put a couple of interior lights on timers that mimic your normal daily pattern (if you have lights on from 7pm - 11pm that should be the same hours). A TV or stereo on a timer also can be a good deterrent and a true "turn-off" for burglars. Be sure to LOCK IT UP and not leave any windows or doors ajar (don't forget those bathroom windows and doors between garages and the house!). You can take your exterior security a step further by installing motion detection lights. These are great not only for startling the would-be burglar but letting your neighbors know that someone is around your house because the lights just went on.

Remember the "lived in" look isn't dishes and laundry, it's lights and locks!

TECH Tip - Saving your login information

Websites that require a login by the user (such as banking, shopping and other commerce points) many times prompt the user to "save" their login information. While this can make for ease of access, it also means that someone sitting at your computer can login as well!



Imagine a friend of a family member, over for the day who just happens to "borrow" your computer, or someone finds your lost laptop, or worse yet, the thief who breaks in and turns on your home computer. Just as you would not leave your password written on a piece of paper sitting on your desktop, you should also not have it saved at any login point for e-commerce. The best rule of thumb is *memory*, your memory!

U.S. Census

The first phase of the United States 2010 Census has come to a close and it's now time for census workers to begin contacting every household that did not mail in their response forms. Unfortunately, this can also be a time where thieves and other criminals look for opportunities to commit crimes.



Being aware of the census process and what will or will not be done is important to protecting your personal information and the security of your home. According to the U.S. Census bureau, they will not be conducting the census through email or sending emails to encourage your participation. This is important to note, because a skilled internet thief can send very convincing email messages with the hope of capturing your personal information, so navigate away from any email indicating that they are collecting census data!

Census workers must carry with them official identification issued by the Census Bureau and they are not to ask to enter your home. Additional information about the census process can be obtained by going to the official website at www.2010.census.gov or calling the general information line at 1-800-923-8282.

The Monthly 2do List



Can't Happen to Me!



Thieves looking to break into vehicles are always hopeful that the next window they look in will be the window of a car owner whose philosophy is "can't happen to me!" These are many times the perfect target because the owner, who has never been victimized by a car burglar, gets lulled into a sense of invincibility, where since it never has happened, it probably never will...that's when the burglar strikes.

Take time this month to review with all family members the three steps to protecting your car from auto burglary and check to make sure everyone is doing their security part.

1. Lock `em up! All the doors and windows should be completely closed and locked.
2. Take it out! Put every loose item (this includes removable stereos or faceplates) in the trunk or take it with you.
3. Park in well-lit areas that would be less enticing for burglars.

Get the family in the habit of these three steps and you've taken a big step in protecting your vehicle from the sticky fingers of thieves.



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