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**THE SALEM CITY
CRIME PREVENTION
CONNECTION**

SALEM CITY
POLICE

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Summer Travel

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Summertime already? Hard to believe (and for some it couldn't come fast enough!) but summer is upon us and for some families it will be a time of trips, vacations, visits to relatives or traveling to their favorite getaway spot.

While vacation and travel can be a time to "get away from it all," it's not a time to let your guard down when it comes to protecting yourself and preventing crime. Safety and security begins with a solid travel plan and a strategy for protecting your home while you are gone. Identifying safe places to travel and being aware of certain dangers that exist in certain communities or large metropolitan areas will help keep you safe.

Before you go...

- ✓ Label all of your baggage in the event it is misplaced or taken.
- ✓ Leave the valuables at home and take only the items necessary for your trip.
- ✓ Before leaving, go through your home with a fine tooth security comb; being sure to lock up all your doors and windows. Don't forget to set light timers, notify trusted neighbors and make arrangements for your newspapers and mail to be picked up. (see more in this month's Home Security 101 article!)

Where to stay...

- ✓ Select a lodging option that you believe is in a relatively safe location. If you are not sure of the facility or the surrounding area, check some of the various trip advisors online or call the local chamber of commerce or visitor's bureau and get some general information about the area.
- ✓ Check to make sure that your accommodation has appropriate, functioning locks on doors and windows (and be sure to use them!).
- ✓ Don't leave valuables in your room while you are out and about. Some lodging options provide safes in the room or at the front desk. Take advantage of the safes if you have any items of value that you are leaving behind.

I'm there, now what?

- ✓ Exploring somewhere for the first time? Do your research and find out what the area is like. Your lodging option, the internet or even the local police department may be able to assist you with advice on where to go and where to avoid.
- ✓ Carry small amounts of cash and only one credit card; if carrying a wallet, keep it in your front pocket.
- ✓ If your travels include camping; make sure to never leave valuables at your campsite when going out for a hike.
- ✓ What do purse snatchers love? Well, purses of course! Avoid carrying one when out and about. If you must take a purse be sure to have the strap securely around your neck and shoulder and position it in front of your body.
- ✓ Rental cars can at times be easy to spot and vacationers tend to have plenty of items in the car, making for the perfect target. Do as you would do at home and keep any and all items, whether they are of great value or not, in the vehicle's trunk.
- ✓ Be cautious with leaving any beverage unattended and always know where they came from (accepting a beverage from someone you don't know is risky). You certainly wouldn't want an "additive" put in your drink that could affect your physical and mental abilities.

Even if your travels only take you away from home for the day, you should still put your preventive mindset in gear and not let security and safety take a vacation with you.

HOME SECURITY 101 A Home That Looks Lived In

Summer fun is right around the corner and it's time to start thinking about how to protect your home while out and about locally or while gone for an extended period of time. Most thieves are looking for the "easy take" and that translates into homes and businesses that are unoccupied and easy to access. Unfortunately, summer vacations can make homes the perfect unoccupied target, exactly what they are looking for!



The "lived in" look is the most critical part of your home security strategy. Most burglars dread breaking into a home that is occupied, because their primary goal is to steal, not to confront. Here are some important crime deterring tips for your residence that will help insure your home looks just like it did when you left:

- Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers. If you do not have someone you trust then contact the postal service and newspapers to put a hold on delivery.
- If your garbage cans have been put out for pickup, make sure someone brings them in right after pickup.
- Lights and sounds on timers make your home appear occupied. Set a timer for a couple lights and a stereo and have them go on and off at the normal times of day that you would be using them.
- Your driveway, a parking lot? Yes! Have your trusted neighbors park their vehicles occasionally in your driveway, this also sends a message to burglars who may be keeping an eye out for vacation-absent residents who have the same car parked in the driveway gathering dust.
- Lock up! In all the rush to make the train, plane or just simply hit the road, it can be easy to forget to lock up. Be sure to take the few minutes necessary to walk through the house and lock ALL doors and windows. A few minutes could save you a bundle!

Whether you spend your summer at home, or traveling abroad; enjoy and don't forget your crime preventive mindset before you leave the house.

Kids and Summer = boredom?



Young people from everywhere are certainly ready and waiting for summer breaks from school. Unfortunately, summer fun can grow old at times when there is not enough to do and having a lot of time on their hands can lead them on a path to unproductive activities.

Planned activities with family members, friends, and school or childcare providers is important in keeping young people busy and out of mischief. If you are leaving your child with someone make sure that you are completely confident in their ability to take care of your child. Ask the important questions of yourself and the person watching your child.

Questions for Parents:

- ✓ Is the person old enough and responsible enough for me to entrust my precious child to them?
- ✓ How well is the person prepared to react to an emergency such as a medical problem, fire or other emergency?
- ✓ Have I done my "homework" on who this person is and how they have taken care of other children?
- ✓ Did I provide the child care provider with specific directions of how to care for my child and have I provided them with all of my emergency contact information.

The questions shouldn't end there, but rather end only when you are completely confident in the person to which you have entrusted this most important of tasks.

If your child is going to have a little more *freedom* and responsibility by being home alone, then it's important to lay down some rules that will keep them safe. Set specific boundaries of where they can and cannot go. *Lay down the law* for them to notify you or someone you designate when they leave the house. Spelling out the rules on visitors to the house and expected security responsibilities (i.e. locking and securing the home) will also help to keep your children safe.

Safe and Sober Graduation

Every year there are stories from somewhere in our country where a graduation has taken a tragic turn. Unfortunately, those stories far too often involve the use of alcohol and the end to a promising life.



Discuss with your graduate the importance of having an alcohol-free celebration and the consequences of even one beer. Being an underage and/or intoxicated driver can have impacts that are far reaching and can affect their driving privileges, employment opportunities and even their future higher education ambitions. However, the most dire of consequences are those where the lives of others are affected or even taken by a person driving under the influence.

Congratulations to all graduates and remember to make this the beginning of a future filled with great success and promise.

The Monthly 2do List

Is Your Vehicle A Target?



Ever wondered what goes through the mind of a burglar, thief or criminal? If we only knew *all the time* then probably crimes would occur less frequently! However, the fact is we don't always know why a burglar picks one vehicle over another. We do know though, that for many, their "selection" was based on two important factors:

- 1) Ease of committing the crime (low potential of being caught).
- 2) The potential reward.

Burglars obviously prefer to commit their crimes and *not* get caught, so for many, they are very particular in the vehicle they select. A vehicle parked in an area with lots of foot traffic, highly visible to others and well lit, is going to be less inviting for the thief. Whereas a dark, secluded and quiet area can provide burglars with inflated confidence that they can commit their crime and not get caught.

Likewise, a vehicle that *may* have some reward is a lot more enticing than one that definitely has nothing of value to be taken. The trick is that sometimes burglars take their chances by breaking into a vehicle that *may* have something of value. A briefcase or a duffle bag that you know has nothing of value inside can look every bit enticing to the person (thief) who does not know what it contains. Could there be a wallet, a laptop computer, an iPod® or something else worth the effort? The fact is, they don't know, and for some, they will go as far as breaking in to see if there is something of value.

For this month's to-do list take time **TODAY** and check to make sure that your vehicle is secure and isn't inviting to someone interested in relieving you of your personal property.

Parking

- ✓ Good visibility for others to see if someone is breaking in?
- ✓ Appropriate lighting to deter thieves?

What's Inside?

- ✓ Remove all loose items and either take them with you or place them in trunk (even your gym bag!).
- ✓ If you have a removable stereo or faceplate, remove every time.
- ✓ Lock and secure your vehicle.



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