

THE CRIME WATCHER



The Fishers Crime Watch Program began in 1994 and easily reaches 3,000 homes in Fishers. I encourage you to become active in your neighborhood and support the Crime Watch Program. When neighbors look out for each other, everyone benefits.

Chief George G. Kehl

Did you know.....

Property crime makes up slightly more than three-quarters of all crime in the United States. Overall, in about 84% of all burglaries, the offender gained entry into the victims residence or other building on the property. Of the 13 million completed thefts of property in 2005, there were 4.1 million property thefts of less than \$50, 4.7 million between \$50 and \$249, and 3.2 million of \$250 or more.

Home ownership

Property crime, regardless of the type, occurred more often to those living in rented property. In 2005--

Households in rented property experienced 192 property crimes per 1,000 households, while those that own their homes experienced 137 property crimes per 1,000 households.

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict_c.htm#

SPRING CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Now that Spring is here, many of us will be getting out in the yard and doing "Spring Cleaning" around our homes. We would like for people to take the opportunity to check on some crime prevention issues around their home.

** Clean and inspect light fixtures and replace the bulbs if necessary. If they are on timers or dusk to dawn sensors, make sure they are still operating correctly.

** Make sure you add any new yard tools or power equipment to your valuable property inventory sheet. Make sure to include make, model, and serial numbers.

** Utilize your neighbors and be a neighbor: let neighbors know when your going to be away for extended periods. Pay close attention to your neighbors' property and vehicles.

** Plan a neighborhood cleanup day for common areas, parks and streets — a great way to reconnect with your neighbors after winter and to meet new residents!

** Are views from neighboring properties or streets obscured by trees, bushes or fences? Are there any adult-sized hiding spots around my doors or windows? Are there areas of contrast and shadow around my house or sheds where intruders could stay undetected? Does my property have an unlivd-in or unkempt look?

ity from the street and neighbor's houses. Spring clean-up is a great time to trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible to neighbors and from the street.

A criminal entering your community wants the easiest and quickest target. Intruders will look elsewhere when you make your property look maintained, lighted, and conspicuous to the street!

To avoid being seen or caught, intruders look for property they can get into and out of quickly. Their ideal target is a house surrounded by large hedges or shrubs, which hamper visibil-



For more information on the Fishers Police Department Crime Watch Program— Please call or email Sergeant Gerry Hepp at 317-595-3300 or heppg@fishers.in.us

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Fishers Police Department
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Fishers Town Council

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FISHERS POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Phone: 317-595-3300

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 317-773-1282

Stop A Burglar: Lock Up When You Spruce Up

National crime statistics indicate that one out of five burglaries is through unlocked doors or windows. Stop these thefts. Lock up while you spruce up!

If you're out working in your garden these spring days, make sure you keep your doors locked. Carry a key with you and lock your front door and your back door. Some criminals specialize in stealing from homes when people are outside doing yard work.

When you finish with that yard work, remember to clean up and lock up behind you. When you put your rake and other tools in the shed, garage or basement, don't forget to lock the doors. An open door is an invitation to a thief. Deny criminals the opportunity to steal by securing your home and property.

And finally, if you do see anyone suspicious lurking around your neighborhood, dial 911, and let the police know. An officer can cruise through the area to check things out, and you don't need to provide your name: the call can remain confidential.

Sheds And Garages: Lock 'Em Up

The Fishers Police Department wants to remind residents to lock their sheds and garages. Officials say the best deterrent to keep thieves from stealing your property is a lock and key. Don't assume you are safe from these unwanted people just because you are at home.

Oftentimes, burglars watch and wait to see where you are and what you are doing. Sheds and garages are often left open and unattended as we do yard work or other outdoor activities. The thief is counting on us to become lax in our security.

To avoid losing valuables, remember to close and lock doors to your garage, shed and home. This is especially true if you are in the front yard and the storage area is in the back. It takes almost no time for a thief to come and go with your property.

Take the time to reacquaint yourself with your old neighbors and meet the new ones. Why not suggest a neighborhood watch to protect and watch out for one another's property. Let your neighbors know when a suspicious person has been spotted in your area. Neighbors working together for each other's well-being are the foundation for a happy community.

Make life difficult for a burglar, use locks and keys to protect your property. If you see a suspicious person or notice an unusual situation around your house or that of a neighbor, call 911.

DECEPTION BURGLARIES BLOSSOM IN THE SPRING

The Fishers Police Department is taking a proactive approach in alerting its residents to certain crime trends that occur when the weather gets warmer.

Suspects, posing as legitimate workers, approach homeowners at their residence with the intent of gaining entry under a seemingly legitimate role: local gas company, water department, cable company, tree trimmers, pavers, government inspectors, or officials. One suspect will distract the homeowner while a second suspect will enter the home and search inside for valuables and cash.

Another type of ruse used to gain entry into the home is for a suspect to knock on the

door and ask for a pen and piece of paper to leave the victim's neighbor a note. The suspect may appear to have difficulty writing the note, and will ask to come inside the house. Once inside the victim's house, the suspect will ask the victim to help write the note. As the suspect keeps the victim occupied, others enter the residence to remove money and valuables.

A variety of vehicles have been associated with these subjects including pick-up trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles.

Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform

home repairs, or asking to gain entry into your home. Be sure to ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get authorization from their company before allowing them access. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait.

Remember, do not intervene, but call 911 immediately about suspicious activity.

Remember the motto of our Fishers Neighborhood Watch: Being a good neighbor is the best crime prevention tool!