

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.....

In 2005, law enforcement agencies reported an estimated 2,154,126 burglary offenses—a 0.5-percent increase compared with 2004 data.

An examination of 5- and 10-year trends revealed a 1.8-percent increase in the number of burglaries compared with the 2001 estimate, and a 14.1-percent decline from the 1996 number.

Burglary accounted for 21.2 percent of the estimated number of property crimes committed in 2005.

The average dollar loss per burglary offense in 2005 was \$1,725.

Of all burglary offenses in 2005, 65.8 percent were of residential structures.

Most (62.4 percent) of residential burglaries in 2005 for which time of occurrence was known took place during the day, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. (2006 FBI "Crime in the

SUMMERTIME AND THE THIEVIN' IS EASY....BUT NOT IN CRIME WATCH NEIGHBORHOODS!

July and August are vacation months in Fishers. Many of our residents will be leaving on vacation. In this issue, you will find tips for securing your house while you are gone as well as suggestions for safety while you are vacationing.

Summertime is a key time for Crime Watch neighborhoods to be on alert. A large part of Crime Watch's success lies in its prevention activities. Being aware of activities occurring in your neighborhood and recognizing when something is "not right" is the key to preventing burglaries.

Most crime is opportunistic, committed on the spur of the moment, or when a car or house is left unlocked. This means there is enormous scope

for reducing chances for criminals.

The first step toward preventing crime is understanding its nature.

- Most crime is not done by professionals, nor is it carefully planned.
- Police estimate 80% of home burglaries are *NOT* done by professionals but by opportunists.
- Police estimate 30% of homes are *NOT* locked or have an unlocked window with a screen or standing open !

Block captains can talk with residents to see how they can eliminate the chances of their homes being victimized. Walk the neighborhood during the day and at night. Are there areas that need more lights? Are there

many garage doors open? Could some landscaping be trimmed to eliminate hiding places? Are the Neighborhood Watch signs visible at all entrances to the neighborhood?

Burglars tend to revisit areas where they have been successful so it is essential to take steps to prevent that first burglary. If a house is burglarized in your neighborhood, talk with Sgt. Hepp of the Fishers Police Department about steps that can be taken to prevent a reoccurrence. Neighbors looking out for each other is the key!



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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Daniel E. Henke, Vice
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Charles P. White
David C. George
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Clerk-Treasurer

Linda Gaye Cordell

Town Manager

Gary A. Huff



**FISHERS POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Phone: 317-595-3300
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 317-773-1282

WWW.FISHERS.IN.US

**IF YOU REALIZE YOUR HOUSE
HAS BEEN BURGLARIZED:**

**GET OUT OF THE HOUSE
IMMEDIATELY!**

Call the police, but do not stay in front of your house while doing so. Call from a neighbor's house or use your cell phone.

Wait for the police to arrive.

Advise the police if there are any animals or weapons in your home.

Allow the police time to search your home.

After entry, do not touch anything unless you check with the officer(s)

ON THE ROAD — Safety Suggestions for while you are on vacation....

While you are on your vacation, you can greatly increase our protection by taking the following safety precautions:

Carry traveler's checks instead of large amounts of cash.

Always carry wallets, purses and bags securely. (Do not leave purses on chairs, under tables or on restroom hooks.)

Keep your cash, jewelry and valuables (such as passports, cameras and airline tickets) locked in your hotel safety deposit box or safe.

Keep track of your keys. (You may consider returning your hotel room key to the front desk while away from your room.)

Do not leave room keys laying around the swimming pool.

NEVER pick up hitchhikers.

Never leave your keys in unattended car, even while running a quick errand or filling up with gas.

While driving, travel on main roads and use maps.

Lock any packages, cameras, clothing or other valuables in the trunk when you leave your car.

At night, park your car in a well-lighted area. Remember to lock doors and roll up windows.

Be wary of solicitors.

Travel in pairs or groups if possible.

Pay attention to your surroundings. Should you see anything suspicious call 9-1-1.

ALWAYS lock your hotel room door, even if just going for ice. Intruders much prefer to walk in rather than crash in.

**VACATION SAFETY TIPS—
PREVENTION IS THE KEY**

Here are some suggestions to secure your home before you leave on vacation...

• Inform neighbors you know and trust that you will be going away. Tell them the date you will depart and return. Inform them if you will have a house sitter. Leave your vacation address and telephone number so you can be reached in case of an emergency. Tell your neighbors to call 911 immediately if there is an emergency.

• Make arrangements to have the lawn mowed and leaves picked up.

• Use timers to run lights and a radio tuned

to a talk station on and off during expected hours. Leave shades and blinds in a normal position.

• Have good locks on all doors and windows and use them. Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates. Consider taking valuables to a bank safety deposit box. Make sure to lock the garage door and disable the automatic door opener. (Thieves can gain entry to your house by using a scanner-like device to crack the code on your automatic door opener.) If your house has sliding glass doors, be sure to leave them locked and use a professional blocking system or a one-inch dowel cut to the length of the door to

prohibit anyone from "jimmying" the door open.

• Test your smoke and burglar alarms. Check to make sure that all stoves and electrical appliances have been turned off or disconnected. Unplug all television sets, and computers. Turn off the water to the house to prevent rupturing of a hose or water line.

• If you have an alarm system, leave a current list of contacts with your alarm company in case your system activates. False alarms may be fined.

• Double check that every door and window is locked as you leave.