

# WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE



*Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton*

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME LOCKS, LIGHTS AND GOOD NEIGHBORS

You can help prevent residential burglary. It doesn't take much or cost much to out-smart most burglars. They are usually not professionals but rather people taking advantage of an easy target. Below are some suggestions to help make your home safer.

- Make sure all your exterior doors have good locks—at least dead-bolt locks with a minimum one-inch throw.
- Use the locks you have. Always lock up when you go out, even if only for a few minutes.
- Make sure outside doors and door frames are solid, 1 ¾" metal or hardwood.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, or put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.
- Make sure your windows have good locks, particularly those at ground level. Lock double-hung windows by sliding a small-headed bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a slight downward angle in a top corner of the inside sash and partway into the outside sash.
- Make sure all porches, entrances and outside areas are well lighted.
- Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Maintain your yard and keep ladders and tools inside when you're not using them.
- Don't hide your keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. That's the first place burglars look! It's much better to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Mark your valuable property like televisions, DVD players, computers, cameras and stereos with an identification number such as your driver's license number. Keep a record of your property in a safe place.
- Consider installing an alarm system for summoning emergency help.
- If you park your car outside your garage, never leave the garage door opener in the car, remove valuable property, and lock your doors.

## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP PREVENT CRIME

- Work with PTA's, law enforcement and civic associations to sponsor a community forum about crime and crime prevention.
- Organize or help sponsor an anti-vandalism crew to remove graffiti or clean up playgrounds and parks.
- Urge education authorities to include crime prevention course work in all elementary and secondary schools.
- Help the criminal justice system work. Volunteer your time by joining a neighborhood watch group.
- Work with law enforcement to analyze crime patterns in your community. The better you understand the problem, the more effectively you can act on it.

## RECOGNIZING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR AND ACTIVITIES

Below are a few examples of suspicious behavior but does not include everything. If your instincts say something is suspicious, call 911. It is OK to be wrong.

What is suspicious activity?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home
- Cars, vans or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights
- Anyone sitting in a parked vehicle for extended periods of time
- Someone knocking on your door then asking for a person who does not live there or acting surprised when you open the door
- Someone knocking on your door and acting very aggressive, trying to sell you items or enter your home to give you a demonstration—this may be done with multiple 'sales people'

When you call 911 remain calm. Dispatchers are trained to ask questions required for police response. The answers to these questions give deputies the necessary information to respond to the call for service. Questions a dispatcher asks can include:

- Locations of incident
- Suspect description
- How many people are involved
- Vehicle description
- Weapons involved

*Remember: Deputies will be dispatched for in progress emergencies while you are answering these questions.*