

***From the Office of Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti  
Serving the People of Lexington's 9th District***



## 9th District News & Notes Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2015



View a **map** of the 9th district [here](#).

Dear 9th District Neighbor,

With the holiday season in full swing, criminal activity is a growing concern in most communities. Lexington is no exception. Unfortunately, the holiday season is "open season" for crime. Thefts and property crimes tend to increase between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. But we can all take steps to reduce the likelihood that we will become the victim of such activity.

It is easy to become distracted during this hectic period but to help prevent criminals from ruining your holiday you should always lock your vehicles and your home or apartment. Don't make it easy for thieves. Keep your garage door down and don't leave valuables in your vehicle—especially in plain view. Other basic crime prevention measures include burglar alarms, security cameras, exterior security lights, installing better than average locks, and not leaving your mail or packages in view if you will be out of town. Lexington's Division of Police offers various online brochures for crime prevention and safety. [You can access them by clicking here.](#)

New police officers are hitting the streets this month. (Page 3.) A class of thirty-one officers joins the current force of nearly five-hundred officers already on the job and there are fifty recruits presently in the Police training academy who should graduate in early 2016. In addition, Chief Barnard plans another class of new recruits to follow this class in the spring of 2016.

The Council also recently approved hiring ten safety officers within the Division of Police. These officers will handle non-emergency matters such as traffic control, auto accidents and other duties presently handled by patrol officers. This move will enable patrol officers to concentrate more on criminal activity and crime prevention in our neighborhoods.



*Thirty-one new police officers have hit the streets of Lexington this month.*

Thank you to everyone who attended the Robinwood Neighborhood Safety Watch Meeting earlier this month at Southern Heights Baptist Church. There was a terrific turnout and I want to especially thank Lt. Daugherty from the Division of Police for attending and speaking, and thank Robin Young, President of the Robinwood Neighborhood Association and Kathleen Donovan for organizing the meeting. Last but certainly not least, special thanks to Pastor Boldt for providing the space to meet.

I am always encouraged when so many people are willing to give up their time to participate in this type of important community meeting and are interested in watching out for their neighbors and their neighborhood. Our Police force cannot do it alone and appreciate the community support. If you were not able to attend the meeting and are interested in participating in a Neighborhood Safety Watch Program, please contact my office at your convenience for more information.

My very best wishes to you and yours for a safe, joyous, and peaceful holiday.

### Calendar:

**Open through Jan. 10:**  
Triangle Park Ice Rink

View the [City Calendar](#).



### Follow on Social Media:



Councilmember Mossotti represents the 9th Council District of Lexington, which is comprised of a portion of Clemons Heights/Clemons Grove, and Copper Run, Copperfield, Higbee Mill, Magnolia Run, Monticello, Pickway Corner, Plantation, Robinwood, Southpoint, Stonewall Community, Stonewall Equestrian, Wellington, Willow Bend, Willow Oak, Wyndham Downs, Wyndham Meadows, and Wyndham Ridge neighborhoods. She and her husband Ron have resided in the 9th District for the past 35 years.



***SPECIAL SAFETY TIPS ISSUE—See pages 9, 10, 11 for useful home and holiday safety tips.***

## Zone Change Request Filed for 1580 Higbee Mill Road

A zone change request has been filed with the City's Division of Planning for a proposed development of forty-eight apartments at the property at 1580 Higbee Mill Road, where Cornwall intersects Higbee Mill Road.

The zone change request has been filed seeking to change the zone from R-1T (Residential Townhouses) to R-3 (Planned Neighborhood Residential). The associated parking lot would be accessed off of Higbee Mill Road. (See map below.)

The plat that was filed with the City's Division of Planning can be [viewed/downloaded here](#).

The matter went before the Division of Planning's Technical Committee on December 16th and will now go before the Division of Planning's Subdivision and Zoning Committees on January 7th. After that, it will then go before the Planning Commission on January 28th at 1:30 pm here at City Hall, 200 East Main, in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers. Each of these meetings are open to the public and there is the opportunity to make public comment.

I encourage anyone who is interested in commenting to consider attending the zone change hearing on January 28th (or any of the meetings leading up to that meeting) and feel free to comment on the record. Public comment is very important to this process.

If you would like to learn more about the overall zone change process please contact Planning Services Manager Bill Sallee at 859-258-3171 or by e-mail at [bills@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:bills@lexingtonky.gov).

If you cannot attend these public meetings, I encourage you to consider submitting your feedback to the Division of Planning by e-mail or by mail so that it may be entered in the permanent record.

You may do this by writing to:

**The Division of Planning**  
**101 East Vine Ste 700**  
**Lexington, KY 40507**

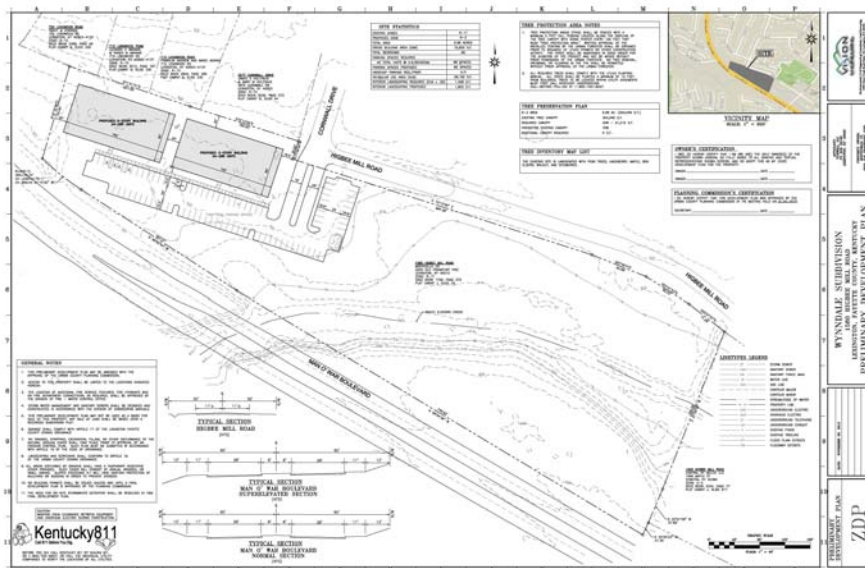
You can also e-mail [planningmailbox@LexingtonKy.gov](mailto:planningmailbox@LexingtonKy.gov) and the Planning staff will print out your e-mail and include it in the related file that the Planning Commissioners will work from during their review.

The meetings leading up to the January 28th Planning Commission meeting enable the Planning staff to review various aspects/potential impact of the proposed development. They then formulate their final report/recommendation for the Planning Commission based on the information gleaned from the previous three meetings. Along the way, Police, Fire, and Traffic Engineering also weigh in with their input. So, in essence, the final report should reflect information determined up to that point. The Planning Commission then will hear from the Planning Staff and the Developer at the January 28th meeting. The public can also attend and speak.

Once the Planning Commission votes to accept or reject the proposal, the matter then goes to the full Council wherein the Council will vote to accept or reject the Planning Commission's vote. The public can also speak at that meeting. (Date: TBD.)

As the Urban County Council sits in a "quasi-judicial" capacity in respect to zone change requests and therefore must remain impartial, Councilmembers are discouraged from discussing zone change requests prior to the actual zone change hearing, which in this case will be January 28th.

Any applicable updates will be posted on my [Facebook page](#).



A zone change request has been filed for the property at 1580 Higbee Mill Road. The plat is shown at left and may be downloaded by [clicking here](#).



## Thirty-One New Police Officers Hit the Streets



Thirty-one new Lexington Police Officers hit the streets this month along with their Field Training Officers at their sides. I wish them well.

Congratulations on graduating from the Lexington Police Academy and thank you for your service to our City!

## Seven Lexington Police Officers Promoted

Seven Lexington Police officers have recently been promoted and appointed to various ranks within the division.

Lexington Police Chief Mark Barnard recently pinned the officers with their new badges at a promotion ceremony at the division's BCTC Training Center Building. Way to go!



Among those promoted: Commander Shawn Coleman – appointed to Assistant Chief; Sergeant Matthew Greathouse – promoted to Lieutenant; Sergeant Jacqueline Newman – promoted to Lieutenant; Sergeant Albert Johnson – promoted to Lieutenant; Officer James Boyd – promoted to Sergeant; Officer Randall Combs – promoted to Sergeant; Officer Benjamin Stratton – promoted to Sergeant; and Officer Jason Rothermund – promoted to Sergeant.

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to former Lexington Police Officer Donald J. Williams who retired on December 12th, for receiving the prestigious Governor's Award for Impaired Driving Enforcement. This award is presented for outstanding achievement in the apprehension of impaired drivers, saving lives on Lexington roadways. Officer Williams was not only the top officer at the Lexington Police Department, but the top officer within our region. Officer Williams gave his all to make the roads safer for Lexington until the day he retired. Congratulations on these awards and on your retirement. Best wishes!

Source: Lexington Division of Police

## Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

Lexington's Division of Waste Management will adjust its collection schedule for the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Day holidays for those who receive city waste collection.

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, residents and businesses that normally receive Thursday or Friday curbside pick-up will be serviced the Wednesday before the holidays. For New Year's Day, only residents and businesses that are regularly serviced on Friday will be impacted; Thursday collection will follow the normal schedule. Friday customers will receive curbside pickup the Wednesday before New Year's Day.

Those impacted by the holiday collection schedule should place their carts out on the Tuesday of the holiday week after 4 p.m. to ensure collection on the Wednesday preceding the holiday.

If normal service day falls on: Service day will be:

**Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) Wednesday, Dec. 23**

**Christmas Day (Dec. 25) Wednesday, Dec. 23**

**New Year's Day (Jan. 1) Wednesday, Dec. 30**

Residents with City waste collection can dispose of their Christmas tree by placing it on the curb the evening before their regular collection day. All decorations, ornaments and lights must be removed. Natural trees will be taken to the City's composting facility where they will be converted into mulch.

Artificial Christmas trees will be sent to the landfill or can be donated to Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Tree collection will start December 28th and will run through mid-January. Natural wreathes, garland and gourds may be placed in the gray yard waste cart.

Fayette County residents can recycle holiday lights, computers, televisions and small appliances at the City's Electronic Recycling Center located at 1306 Versailles Road. Learn more at [www.lexingtonky.gov/ecycle](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/ecycle).

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The City's Recycling Center, Electronics Recycling Center and Haley Pike Waste Management Facility will also be closed on these holidays as well as the Saturdays following the holidays.

For more information on the holiday waste disposal, contact LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255.



## Robinwood Neighborhood Safety Watch Meeting



Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Robinwood Neighborhood Safety Watch Meeting at Southern Heights Baptist Church. Special thanks to Lt. Daugherty from the Division of Police for attending and speaking, and to Robin Young, President of the Robinwood Neighborhood Association and to Kathleen Donovan for organizing the meeting. Last but not least, thank you to Pastor Bill Boldt for providing the meeting space. There was a great turnout and good discussion.



## U.K. Study Finds Demand for Local Food is No Fad

According to a press release from the University of Kentucky, a recent U.K. study finds that the demand for local food is no fad.

People involved in a wide variety of food venues in Lexington are enthusiastic about the increasing demand for local food. Researchers behind the Fayette County Local Food Demand Assessment estimate that Lexington businesses in 2014 spent approximately \$14 million on Kentucky food products—money that went directly to farmers—with growth likely to continue to \$20 million to \$24 million in sales by 2020.

The Food Connection at UK and Bluegrass Farm to Table partnered to conduct the study, which was completed by researchers in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky and Department of Agricultural Economics.

"We saw a need to more accurately quantify the institutional demand for local food products in the Bluegrass region, so we can provide farmers with specific information, such as what types of products are in demand and at what prices. With that information they can evaluate new market opportunities," said Ashton Potter Wright, local food coordinator for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and manager of Bluegrass Farm to Table.

Wright said the study likely underestimates the true demand, but it will provide a baseline to measure efforts to build a more vibrant local food economy.

Researchers conducted 49 in-depth interviews of restaurateurs, retailers, procurement agents for institutions and hotels, farmers market staff, processors and distributors. Restaurants are currently the largest purchasers of Kentucky farm products, spending \$5.5 million. In 2014, retailers, hotels and institutions, including schools, universities and hospitals, purchased \$3 million, \$1 million and \$1.5 million, respectively.

Jairus Rossi, lead author of the study, said his research shows the local food system is an emerging part of Lexington's economic and social well-being. Interviews found that purchasers across the board expect growth of at least 5 percent a year. It is probable that restaurants and institutions could increase local purchasing by 10 percent annually, while direct-to-consumer farms speculate they could see even more growth, perhaps as high as 15 percent a year, because of increased consumer familiarity with direct markets.

"Most people saw this growth as coinciding with the emergence of a different kind of consumer," Rossi said. "I think it's about people appreciating craft processes—in beer, in bourbon, in food—in knowing where your food comes from, how it's produced and in having opportunities to experience the transformation of food from farm to plate. The movement is definitely consumer- and chef-driven."

Respondents across the board noted that the ability of institutions to influence demand based on their public visibility and large-scale supply requirements could have a significant impact on the local food system. The study found this large potential demand is both a promise and a challenge for product sourcing.

The interviews turned up four major issues that currently result in unmet demand. Generally, Kentucky farmers at present cannot provide a sufficient and consistent supply of produce and protein that meets a certain price point and quality standard. Price disparities between local and nonlocal products are a major barrier. Respondents identified the absence of critical food system infrastructures as the reason for this price disparity, though there was no consensus over what would help.

There is also a need for improved communication practices, which can help producers and buyers understand each other's expectations in quality, price, quantity and product presentation. The study found that local food coordinators and other advocates are crucial to improvement in this area.

"We found this study valuable in trying to understand the existing gaps and the emerging connections in the local food system, and how the system can be strengthened through very tangible interventions," Rossi said.

A summary of the study can be found at [http://cedik.ca.uky.edu/files/final\\_fayette\\_co\\_lfd\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://cedik.ca.uky.edu/files/final_fayette_co_lfd_exec_summary.pdf)

Source: University of Kentucky



## 9th District Neighborhood Leaders Meeting

Thank you to each of the 9th District Neighborhood and Homeowner Association presidents and respective board members and others who attended the 9th District Neighborhood/HOA Leaders meeting at Southern Heights Church earlier this month.

I appreciate your input and continued feedback.

Our neighborhoods are the strength of our district and our community and I thank you for the time that each of you devote to make our community such a great place to live, work, and play.



## Stonewall Elementary in the News - "A Special Request"



Don't miss this delightful recent report from LEX18 on Stonewall Elementary School second-grader Sam Heersche, Principal Bill Gatliff, and the Tooth Fairy.

Watch the video by clicking here:

<http://www.lex18.com/story/30699819/principal-writes-tooth-fairy-letter-after-student-swallows-tooth>

Courtesy of [LEX18.com](http://www.lex18.com).

## Best Wishes to Officer Debbie Wagner

Earlier this month the Council honored a truly remarkable woman and dedicated public servant who has meant so much to the Division of Police and the community since she joined the force in 1978.

Officer Debbie Wagner is retiring in January and to say that she will be missed is certainly an understatement.

During her service, Officer Wagner coordinated and led 52 Citizens' Police Academies. The Lexington Citizens' Police Academy was created in 1997 to open the lines of communication between the community and local law enforcement. It has allowed hundreds of citizens the opportunity to learn more about the Lexington Police Department, local law enforcement agencies and how they all serve the community.

Enjoy your retirement, Debbie! You have certainly earned it.





## Mock Council Session at City Hall



Students from The Learning Center (TLC) in Lexington recently spent their morning here at City Hall learning more about how the Urban County Council's legislative process works.

Mandalynne N. (shown at left) from TLC represented our 9th District during the mock Council session.

Today's students are tomorrow's community leaders and I hope everyone who participated learned a lot and had a great time.

## Wellington Elementary Students Recognized

Earlier this month students from Wellington Elementary School were recognized by Mayor Gray and the Council for their participation in the 2015 Recycle-Bowl Competition.

Wellington students recycled 4,235 aluminum beverage cans during the competition.

Way to go! Keep up the good work.



## Fire Station 20 Lights

Have you seen the wonderful annual light display at Lexington Fire Department Station #20?

Drive by and tune your radio to 91.1 FM to listen to the music and enjoy the light show.

Fire Station #20 is located at 3001 Arrowhead Dr., off of Harrodsburg Road and across from Beaumont Centre.

Thank you to everyone at Fire Station #20 for providing this annual show.

Photo: Public Information Office



## **Clean-Up Occurs at Nichols Park and Man o' War Blvd.**

In November, in response to previous criminal activity in the area, a collaborative effort between the City and the University of Kentucky took place at the railroad overpass at Nichols Park and Man o' War Blvd., to clean-up the area that had become "home" to transients who were temporarily sleeping under the overpass.

The overall goal was to pick up all of the trash and debris in the area that had accumulated and to clear cut all of the Honeysuckle and wild growth on both sides of the railroad tracks and Man o' War. A private contractor was hired by the City to clear the area and also remove some of the trees and brush that had grown up causing an issue for pedestrians walking on the bridge going over the tracks. In addition, U.K. employees also cut back the Honeysuckle and wild growth on their property that backs up to the area.

Extra Police patrols were also been implemented in an effort to prevent the area from once again becoming a refuge for the homeless.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone involved, including the City's Division of Code Enforcement, the Division of Police, the private contractor, Lowe's, and the University of Kentucky. As you can see from the photographs below, the area looks so much better and is no longer such an inviting spot for transients to loiter.

**Before:**



**After:**



Photos courtesy of Code Enforcement and Rob Bolson.





**From the Office of Councilmember  
Jennifer Mossotti**

Government Center, 200 East Main St., 5th Floor  
Lexington, KY 40507  
<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364>

To contact **Councilmember Mossotti**:  
City Hall office phone: 859-258-3215  
E-mail: [jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov)

Legislative Aide: **Rob Bolson**  
[rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)  
City Hall phone: 859-425-2564  
E-mail: [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)

**Follow on Social Media:**

Facebook: [CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti)  
Twitter: [@Mossotti9th](https://twitter.com/Mossotti9th)  
Instagram: [CouncilmemberMossotti](https://www.instagram.com/CouncilmemberMossotti)



**Telephone Numbers:**

<b>LexCall</b> (City Hall)	311
<b>Police</b> (Non-emergency)	258-3600
<b>Fire</b> (Non-emergency)	231-5600
City Garbage Collection	425-2255 or 311
Columbia Gas of KY	800-432-9345
Fayette County Clerk	253-3344
Fayette County Sheriff	252-1771
Health Dept.	252-2371
Humane Society	255-9033
Ky. Utilities	255-0394
Ky. American Water	800-678-6301
Report a Pothole	800-728-2448 or 311
Senior Citizen Center	278-6072
Time-Warner Cable	514-1400
Traffic Hotline	258-3830
Veterans Affairs Hotline	800-273-TALK (8255)
Voter Registration	255-8683
United Way	211

## Other News...



**Clays Mill Widening Update.** The latest update from the City's Division of Engineering is that the Clays Mill Road Widening Project construction between New Circle and Keithshire Way is winding down and is anticipated to be completed in early January. Thank you for your patience. It is certainly shaping up with each passing day and looking better and better. The next phase will be north of New Circle, which is in Council District 10.

On Tuesday December 22nd, Lextran will host their annual Customer Appreciation Night and provide free trips to see Southern Lights at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Buses will leave from the Transit Center beginning at 7 p.m.



**Lextran**

## Holiday Safety Tips

- Use non-flammable decorations
- Check holiday lights annually for excessive wear
- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Keep Christmas trees away from heat sources and exits
- Water Christmas trees daily
- Use LED light candles  
—They don't get hot and they use less energy



International Association  
of Fire Fighters

## Give a Deserving Neighbor a Nod!

Recognize that special neighbor whose efforts have made a positive impact on our district and community.

Nominate a neighbor or resident for 9th District "Neighbor of the Month," (see page 2) by e-mailing your nomination details to: [jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov](mailto:jmossotti@LexingtonKy.gov).



## Do you know someone who might enjoy reading this monthly newsletter?

Please forward a copy to them. If you are not currently a subscriber, e-mail [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov) to be added to the list.

Miss an edition? Download previous editions here: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=364>

## Homeowner Safety Check List

If you are like most homeowners, you may not know about all of the things that would make your home vulnerable. Here is a home security checklist that will help you assess possible weaknesses in your home, so that you can identify and fix areas that will help make your home more secure.

1. Are any of your valuables visible from the street?
2. Are your doors and windows visible from the street or from a neighbors view?
3. Are your doors made of either solid wood or metal clad?
4. Are your entryways and pathways well-lit at night?
5. Is your house number clearly visible from the street?
6. Can you see who's at the door without opening it?
7. Do you have a cell phone in case of cut telephone wires?
8. Do you have a neighbor who has a spare set of keys to your home?
9. Do you have all your mail held at the post office when you travel?
10. Do you have an emergency escape plan in case of break-in?
11. Do you have any yard signs or window decals that state your home is monitored?
12. Do you have fire extinguishers easily accessible throughout your home?
13. Do you have keyed deadbolt locks installed on all of your doors?
14. Do you have motion-sensor lights installed?
15. Do you have secondary locks on sliding glass doors or do you secure the door with a dowel on the inside track?
16. Do you have secondary locks on your windows?
17. Do you have timers on your lights?
18. Do you keep an inventory of your personal property in case of theft?
19. Do you keep medications out of sight?
20. Do you keep your valuables stored in a safety deposit box or safe?
21. Do you know your neighbors across the street and on all three sides of your home?
22. Do you leave a house key under your door mat?
23. Do you lock the gate(s) to your backyard?
24. Do you lock up your grills, lawn mowers, bikes, or other outdoor valuables?
25. Do you lock all doors at night and every time you leave the house, even if it's just for a few minutes?
26. Do you shred documents with personal information before disposing them?
27. Do your doors fit tight in their frames?
28. Does your neighborhood have a watch program?
29. Have all your doors been rekeyed since you moved in?
30. Have there been any break-ins in the neighborhood recently?
31. Have you secured any mail slots, dryer vents, or pet entrances that a burglar could enter through?
32. Is your home's exterior well-lit?
33. Is your street well-lit at night?
34. Do you have surveillance cameras?
35. Do you have working carbon monoxide detectors?
36. Do you have working smoke detectors?
37. Do you store your ladders and tools in a locked garage or shed?
38. Do you keep your garage door down to prevent "garaging"?
39. Do you have a current list of serial numbers from all of your electronic devices?



***See something suspicious? Be a good neighbor. Report it to the Division of Police at 258-3600 or 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.***



# Home Security for Christmas Holiday



**Christmas holidays** are a special time when families and friends come together to celebrate the season. It is also the time of year where families and friends are most generous and practice the tradition of gift giving. It should be a joyous and happy time for all of us.

Unfortunately, home burglars view the holiday season a little differently. For them, it is a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and all the new gifts of small electronics, computers, jewelry, and easily sold valuables.

**Here are a few tips of what they look for when shopping for a house to burglarize. These tips will help you enjoy the holidays without incident.**

- Burglars look for an easy entry with good escape routes. Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street. It's too tempting for them to smash the window and grab the wrapped packages.
- Burglars look for occupancy cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob. Use an inexpensive light timer when you are away and ask a neighbor to keep the front of your home clean of papers and debris.
- Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.
- Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. Sliding windows that are not secure can be seen from distance. One holiday problem can occur when exterior Christmas light extension cords are run inside through a window and prevent it from being secured. Hire an electrician or handyman to install an inexpensive exterior outlet for your holiday lights.
- Don't post your family name on your mailbox or on your house. A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number and call your home while in front of your house to confirm that you are away.
- Don't leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's...we're away skiing for the Christmas holidays...please leave a message." Burglars love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.
- After Christmas day, don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new computer, DVD player, or stereo receiver on the street for the garbage man. Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside for them to steal. Break them down or cut them up to conceal the items better. After a lucrative burglary, the chances of being burglarized again are increased to steal the new replacement products.
- Last, but not least, fortify your home by installing solid core doors, heavy duty locks, longer screws in the lock strike plates and door hinges, and install secondary security devices on all accessible sliding windows.

Source: CrimeDoctor.com



***See something suspicious? Be a good neighbor. Report it to the Division of Police at 258-3600 or 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.***