



December 2015

# THE TOWN WATCH

## Lakewood Village TX Neighborhood Watch



### UPCOMING LWV EVENT



\*\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\*\*

Christmas Caroling in the Village has become a tradition by a few of our residents for years. This is an open invitation to those who would like to participate and enjoy the fun during the holiday season! If you are interested, contact Janie Newsome via Facebook or through email at: [lwwatchprogram@gmail.com](mailto:lwwatchprogram@gmail.com)

**To report  
suspicious activity,  
call Denton County  
Sheriff's Office  
(940) 349-1600**

### A Message from Your LWV Neighborhood Watch Program

We are happy to report that since the Watch program was revitalized in 2015, there have been zero, yes ZERO incidents of crime in our town.

Thank you to all of our Block Watch Captains - your efforts, extra eyes & ears in our town have made a difference! We look forward to some great events happening in 2016!

If you have any questions or comments for us, please send email to: [lwwatchprogram@gmail.com](mailto:lwwatchprogram@gmail.com)

Your LWV Watch Program would like to wish you all a very Safe & Joyous Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



### WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's an opportune time for crime. Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.

Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

#### **If You Are Traveling:**

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, and/or park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

#### **If You Are Out for the Evening:**

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors & windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

#### **If You Are Shopping:**

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

#### **Protect Your Vehicle:**

- Loading up on all those gifts is a sign of progress in the holiday shopping. But if those packages are left out in the open after they're in the car, your car has become a likely target for thieves. Remember the old cliché "Out of sight, out of mind?" The same idea applies to items in your car.
- Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time. However, anything left in plain view, from your holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, CDs, cell phones or briefcases, may tempt a thief.
- Help prevent your vehicle from being stolen by using anti-theft devices. Although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or store, even if for only a minute or two.

#### **If a Stranger Comes to the Door:**

- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, so be cautious when accepting a package.
- It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and here in Lakewood Village, solicitors must have a current & valid permit issued & signed by the Town Secretary. If it cannot be produced, send them away and call town hall and/or the sheriff's department non-emergency line. Be cautious - and yes Be Safe!

#### **Stay Aware of Holiday Package Thieves:**

- This is a repeat reminder but this time of year it is good information to be reminded of. Every year as the holiday season nears, the complaints of packages stolen from front porches and doorsteps tend to permeate ultimately turning yourself into an easy target for thieves that scour front doors for deliveries. One way to protect yourself is have your high-dollar items sent to your place of employment instead of your home, if your employer will allow it. You could also have them shipped to the home of a person who you know will be home when you are not. A note left with a mail carrier alerting them to leave packages at the post office has also been recommended by postal officials.

