



Farrington's Grove Historical District
Security and Crime Task Force

***Protecting your Property,
Protecting Yourself:
It's Largely Up to You!***

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Protecting your Property, Protecting Yourself: It's Largely Up to You!

Life in the Farrington's Grove Historical District is, for the most part, very pleasant and experiences low levels of crime when contrasted with cities in general. Yet, criminal behavior does occur and to think there could be a neighborhood where crime is absent is more a dream than reality.

The primary goal of the FGHD Security and Crime Task Force is to lower the probability that criminal activity will occur in the neighborhood. [The following ways will be used:](#)

1. To educate neighborhood residents in how common-sense [practices](#) can reduce crime;
2. To increase communication between residents and local law enforcement;
3. To formalize a program designed to heighten observation and reporting of potentially criminal and suspicious behavior; and
4. To track criminal behavior to identify trends and assist in the [distribution](#) of resources.

This booklet presents important information for you. Following the guidance presented will make it more difficult for criminals to pursue their activities in our neighborhood, and as such, an already high quality of life will become even better for all!

Common Sense ways YOU can Decrease the Potential for Criminal Behavior

Most criminal behavior occurs as a result of easy opportunity. Criminals have the tendency to expend the least amount of energy while engaging their behaviors. As such, the more difficult we make their “job,” the more likely they’ll find other areas to engage their behaviors.

- Keep your house locked at all times, even if you’re at home. Nearly 40% of all home burglaries occur in unlocked homes.
- Keep your garage doors closed even if you’re inside. Casual passers-by are always looking for potential future “targets of opportunity”
- Keep your garage doors locked at all times
- Keep your property mowed, neat and tidy. An unkempt lawn and untidy exterior suggests a low-level of owner caring and attention to security.
- Don’t leave valuable items out in plain sight – doing so merely extends an “invitation to theft”
- Keep shrubs and plants neatly trimmed and out of the way of doorways and windows to remove potential hiding places for criminals
- Erect fencing or natural barriers (hedges, plants) to define your property line and to present the “illusion” of a barrier
- Mount motion-detection lighting on your property and at doorways
- Keep your porch light on at night
- Light side and back entrances as well as your main entrance
- Lock your windows
- Secure the area around window air-conditioning units. Block the window track to disallow its being opened further than the area of the unit and secure the unit firmly into place within the window casing.
- Get a dog that loves to bark! The majority of criminals tend to bypass homes in which they can hear a dog.
- Keep your car locked at all times
- Don’t keep items visible through your car windows. Even items of low value might appear to be a “target” for criminals!
- Use door chains or “peepholes” to identify people at your door and don’t allow anyone inside unless you know them. A criminal gaining access to your home has a perfect opportunity to inventory YOUR property for possible theft long after their “visit” ends
- Don’t keep spare house keys “hidden” on your property. Criminals have more experience in finding spare keys than you have in hiding them!
- Label your property with identifying information that will make it easier to reclaim it if it is stolen. A code or other information that isn’t personally-identifiable is best to use. A police officer will accept your claim of ownership if you can report that the code number XXXXX has been etched into it.
- Don’t allow newspapers or mail to accumulate if you’re away from home. Contact your newspaper and mail carrier to ask them to hold delivery until after your return.
- Inform trusted neighbors if you’ll be away from home for extended periods of time and ask them to contact the police if they observe any activity on your property.
- Use window blinds and curtains to “hide” the contents of your home from casual passers-by that just happen to be looking for criminal opportunities

- Don't advertise the recent purchase of valuable items by stacking their packaging/boxes in easy view by your trash
- Use automatic timers on interior lighting, televisions, and radios to suggest you're actually home when you're away
- Install dead-bolt locks on all doors to add another level of security to your door lock system
- Don't keep ladders outside. Doing so gives a criminal the opportunity to gain access to your home on the far more vulnerable second-story windows
- Secure sliding glass doors with a an object that prevents its being opened from the outside
- Install a home security system that is monitored and clearly display the signs the monitoring company provides you

Home Safeguard Checklist

The FGHD Security and Crime Task Force recommends that you regularly refer to this checklist to assure appropriate steps have been taken to safeguard your home and property.

Any question below answered with a “No” should prompt your attention!

Doors		
	Yes	No
Are all outside doors in the house made of metal or solid wood?		
Are all exterior doors equipped with a single cylinder deadbolt lock?		
Are door frames strong enough to prevent forcing or spreading?		
Are door hinges protected from removal from the outside?		
Are all door locks adequate and in good repair?		
Are all exterior doors equipped with heavy duty strike plates with a minimum of three inch screws to secure it?		
Has the hold in the door jam, surrounded by the strike plate, been drilled at least 1 inch deep?		
Can the locking mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port, or pet entrance doorway?		
Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?		
Are all entrances lighted with at least a 40-watt light?		
Are outside lights controlled by timers or photo-electric cells, for automatic operation?		
Can front entrance be observed from street or public area?		
Do you know everyone who has a key to your residence?		
Have you had your locks rekeyed if keys are missing?		
Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public area?		
Is there a sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track?		
Is a “charley-bar” or key operated auxiliary lock used on sliding glass doors?		
Basement		
	Yes	No
Are all entrances to living quarters from garage, porch, balcony, and basement of metal or solid wood construction?		
Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from the living quarters side?		
Is there a door from outside to the basement?		
If so, is that door adequately secure for an exterior door?		
Is outside basement entrance lighted by an exterior light of at least 40-watts?		
Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors?		
Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance?		
Windows		
	Yes	No
Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?		
Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?		
Do the windows opening to hazardous areas or offering increased risk of burglary have additional security?		
Do windows that open to hazardous areas have security screens, grills, or bars that open from the inside?		
Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping?		
Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas?		

Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper and lower floor windows?		
Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible secured?		
Garage Doors and Windows		
	Yes	No
Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device?		
Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times?		
Are garage windows at ground floor level secured adequately?		
Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance?		
Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-wat light?		
Does door from garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance?		
Do you remove your garage door openers from unattended vehicles?		
Do you lock your vehicles and take the keys out even when it is parked in your garage?		

Vacation Check-off List

Lock all doors, including the garage	
Lock all windows, including basement and garage windows	
Cancel all deliveries such as newspapers, food services, mail, etc.	
Have deliveries picked up by a neighbor	
Have a neighbor pick up handbills and throwaways	
Never leave a note on the door that may indicate your absence	
Arrange to have the lawn cut or the snow shoveled	
Adjust blinds and draperies to make the house or apartment appear to be occupied	
Place a light or two on automatic timers	
Remove ladders from sight and secure them in locked places	
Don't hide keys under doormats, flowerpots, or other places	
Secure items such as jewelry, cameras, credit cards, checkbooks, etc.	
Arrange for a house-sitter to live in your home while you're away, if possible	
Arrange for a neighbor to keep an eye on your property and to report anything suspicious to the police	
Let a neighbor know where you are and can be reached in case of an emergency	
Arrange with a neighbor to leave a car parked in your driveway or in front of your house while you're away	
Leave a radio on just inside your doorway	
Lower the tone on your telephone	
Ask neighbors not to tell strangers such as sales and repair persons of your absence	
Don't advertise you absence in any way	
Don't leave an answer on your phone answering machine announcing that you are away	
Notify local law enforcement of your absence	

Increasing Communications

Increasing communication between neighbors, the FGHD neighborhood as a whole, and with local law enforcement is critical to fighting crime. Opening effective communication channels begins by “being a good neighbor” by getting to know who lives in close proximity to you. Obviously, trust has to be built with your neighbors before letting them know when you’ll be gone for extended periods of time or giving them an extra key to your house. But if trust and trustworthiness is sufficiently built between neighbors, another highly effective layer of security can be built.

Several means of electronic communication has been developed by the FGHD, effective emergency and non-emergency means exist to contact local law enforcement.

And finally, becoming an active member of the Security and Crime Task Force can propel you from being passive to an active member of the group tasked with improving security and lowering crime.

FGHD Nosey Neighbor Program

Congratulations! Your living in Farrington's Grove has qualified you for membership in our "Nosey Neighbor" Program. There are no dues, no meetings, no requirements (other than your observing what happens in your block and in the neighborhood), and best of all, your active participation in the program is largely anonymous!

The FGHD Nosey Neighbor program is designed to take advantage of a plentiful resource in the District: people! When those people get to know and watch out for one another and their property, a highly effective, valuable and, efficient layer of security is established for the entire neighborhood!

At the cost of merely becoming more observant and actively responsive within our everyday lives, we will begin to see things that are "out of the ordinary," whether they be people, cars, or circumstances. As we observe and respond to those "out of the ordinary" things in the neighborhood, we can expect crime to decrease as criminals realize that the FGHD is no place for them to "set up shop."

Please note that the Nosey Neighbor program is a passive rather than active! Few of us are trained or expected to assume the role of police officers and doing so in any way has the potential to place us in harm's way. But those police officers are no further away than a telephone call and the few minutes it will take them to respond to a report of suspicious activity.

With a passing look, many criminals appear to be engaging in non-criminal activity. Criminals have the skill of "blending in through normalcy" by mimicking normal behavior. They seldom look "guilty" and realize that engaging behaviors that look non-threatening or normal is the best way to avoid suspicion. But more than a passing look on your part will reveal that things certainly aren't normal. You'd be surprised at how much you know about your neighbors and the activities in your block. You recognize the people that live there, the cars they drive, and the activities in which they engage. A strange car, a person you don't recognize lingering longer than would be the case if they were merely out for a walk, home repairs being done by people you don't recognize while your neighbors aren't at home, strangers walking around homes that aren't there merely taking a meter reading, noises that are hard to identify and out of the ordinary, and many other activities should warrant your attention and a decision to take some sort of action. That action might be to merely monitor their activities before making a final decision up to calling the police emergency 911 service in response to your observation. Realize that opting to take no action of any sort is also a decision by default.

But please know that erring on the side of caution is always superior to ignoring a situation.

Contact Information:

Terre Haute Police EMERGENCY ONLY number: 911

Use the 911 Emergency number ONLY in the case of immediate threat to health and safety or if you are currently observing suspicious activity. To report a crime or suspicious activity after the fact, use the non-emergency number below.

Terre Haute Police Dispatch, for all non-emergencies: (812) 232-1311

Drug Task Force: 812-877-0401

Vigo County Sheriff Non-Emergency: 812-462-3226

FGHD website: <http://www.farringtonsgrove.org/>