

From the Desk of Detective Dave

Vacation Home Security

June 2016



With the school year ending and summer right around the corner, many of us are planning to get out of town! Whether you're heading to Florida to catch a cruise or camping a couple hours away, a few basic home security tips can help prevent an intrusion or burglary while you're gone.

Basically, the idea is to make your home look as if you never left by continuing the appearance of normal activity. Consider asking a trusted neighbor to cut your lawn, park in your driveway, etc. If you have the newspaper delivered, think about offering it to someone while you're gone in lieu of temporarily stopping service. Perhaps the same person will collect your mail too. This will also save you a trip to the post office later. When it comes to who knows you're away and your home is empty, the fewer the better.

Installing a 7-Day programmable timer in place of a light switch can prove to be useful as well. For about \$25, you'll be able to stagger interior and exterior lighting cycles, TV's, radios, etc., which may throw off a would-be burglar who is casing the area.

Remove any hidden spare keys and/or garage door remotes from other cars parked outside. If a burglar figures out you're away, they will likely search for them if given the opportunity.

We're all tempted to post real time events on social media sights. Before you do, think about the security settings of your accounts and who exactly is reading what you're posting. At some point, it's highly likely a complete stranger will eventually be able to see what you've posted. It's not likely you would announce to a group of strangers that you plan to leave your house unattended for two weeks in June, but people inadvertently do so, via the web.

The Frederick Police Department provides a vacation watch program for Frederick residents. The program will help keep your home secure by regularly checking on it while you're on vacation. If there is a problem, it will be discovered sooner and the consistent police presence in your neighborhood can act as a deterrent. The Vacation Watch form can be found on the Town of Frederick website at www.frederickco.gov/CommunityPrograms.

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