

# Neighborhood Watch and Security Tips



Brookside Neighborhood Watch

An Ounce of Prevention...

The Garage: your work area or theirs? Recently, there was a break-in at one of our neighbor's homes. The thief kicked in the garage entry door to gain access to the garage and then made their way inside the home. Who knows how long he (the bad guy) took to get inside? He's got a garage full of tools, and all the time in the world once he closes that door behind him. Hard to see those doors from the street, and who knows if it's recently damaged or if it's been like that? A couple of issues here. Garage exterior pedestrian doors are notoriously unsecure. Unless you have an extremely good reason to access this door from the outside, it's not a bad idea to simply screw two large pipe straps to the structural 2x4's and slide a length of steel pipe through them--effectively barring the door from exterior forcible entry. Alternately, you can use fence straps and a length of fence post. This can be rapidly removed for exit or when working in the yard and easily replaced.



An exterior garage door barred with a fencepost and fence straps.

Additionally, many folks don't take the time to lock the house door inside the garage, incorrectly assuming that no one can gain access to the garage. There is at least one quick, relatively easy way to unlatch the mechanism that moves the garage door, from the OUTSIDE. This leaves

someone free to manually raise and lower the door and giving them as much undisturbed time as needed to either forcibly enter the home or just walk in, because it was left unlocked. Click [here](#) to learn how to secure a garage door.

**Learn from the past:** In recent years, there was a brief rash of home break-in's during the day. Entry was generally being gained via the sliding patio door or unsecured windows (i.e. kitchen). Patio door entry was being gained by LIFTING the door out of the track. This is relatively easy to do apparently with the builder quality door found in most of our homes. A commercially available device, or even a simple nail (properly placed) can prevent both horizontal and vertical movement and removal of the door. Securing a patio door is widely available on YouTube or other internet sources. When you leave be sure doors and windows are locked, secured and alarm system is active.

**Vigilance is the Key: Be a nosy neighbor:** The safety and security of our homes is dependent upon each of us being PROACTIVE and VIGILANT. If you see ANYONE walking around the sub or parking that you don't recognize CALL THE SHERIFF (911) and notify them of a suspicious subject so they can investigate. Suspicious persons may be any race, color, gender or age. They have asked us to do that and partner with them in that way, in order to stop crime in our area.

Don't wait for someone to walk up to your door before you call. Don't assume someone else will call...complacency will get you victimized.

Contact [HERE](#) for more information or to be added to our alerts and Neighborhood Watch Mail list



Click for national NHW tips and ideas

Brookside Neighborhood Watch News

*The Brookside Neighborhood Watch is registered: Our NHW effort is now registered on USAonwatch.org. This is an organization run by the National Sheriff's Association. There are great ideas, tips, etc. on the site. Well worth checking out. Click the logo to the left and see for yourself.*

### Useful Links

- Sign up for Washtenaw County Sheriff's Alerts via e-mail or mobile phone [here](#)
- Enjoy Your Vacation have the Sheriff watch your home: [House Watch](#)
- Have your mail stopped while on vacation [here](#).
- Michigan [Sex Offenders Registry](#)
- See Washtenaw county's most wanted criminals [here](#)
- Check out crimes in the area: [Crime Mapping](#)
- A nice overall safety page: [Security and Safety Tips](#)

## **Please Read . . .**

If you see ANY suspicious activities, vehicles, or people don't hesitate to call 911. We've always been taught to call 911 for a "true emergency", however according to our Sheriff's Department Liason, in this county, all calls are answered at the same location by the same people. The deputies recommend calling 911 (this also gives the added benefit of having the call recorded for later reference) if you are uncomfortable doing this (as you may not view the situation as a true emergency) call the Washtenaw County Sheriff's non-emergency line at (734) 971-8400. Suspicious activities could include heavy vehicle traffic at a particular house, unfamiliar cars repeatedly driving slowly up and down the streets or parked (and occupied) for long periods. Unfamiliar individuals walking through yards at odd hours or approaching homes/vehicles that you know they probably don't have anything to do with. Doors open on homes when you know your neighbors are out of town, etc. Crime thrives on people not paying attention to their surroundings. Notice your surroundings. Say hi to your neighbor now that it's warming up outside.

***If you are interested in becoming a part in the Neighborhood Watch Program or have questions about any of the items on this page, please contact [BrooksideNHW@yahoo.com](mailto:BrooksideNHW@yahoo.com)***

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