



March 11, 2010

Friends of VOP

I hope you are enjoying this great welcomed warmer weather we've had the past week. Speaking of great, we had TWO nights of GREAT ATTENDANCE for our neighborhood **CRIME WATCH meetings** presented by Technical Sergeant **Randy Gardner** of the **Bedford Police Department**. Randy began his employment with the Bedford Police Department in August of 1976 as a Police Officer. Since that time, he has worked in a variety of positions and ranks to include Public Information Officer, Sergeant and his current rank of Technical Sergeant over the **Community Services Division**. During his 33 year career, T.Sgt. Gardner has received an overwhelming amount of letters of commendation and has maintained a flawless work record.

YOU Can Help Make A Difference!

Even though we had a great turn out for the 2 meetings this week, we still need to have 3-5 MORE meetings (about 50-60 residents total) in VOP to encompass the **entire** neighborhood. If we get **51%** of the 211 homes to attend these meetings, we can purchase **NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH signs** throughout the community. We are almost halfway there! I need **your support** in **hosting** one of these meetings so please contact me as soon as you can if you are interested.

Below are a few notes I took on the meeting, but **don't let these notes replace an actual meeting** because much was said that I was unable to record- Sgt. Gardner talks faster than I write!

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

1. One of least expensive ways you can **protect your home** is to **replace the 3/4" brass screw** in your **strike plate** for your **dead bolt** on **all entry doors** with a **3" STEEL screw**. Below is an **actual size** photo of the screws I removed from my strike plates and the screws I replaced them with. The longer screw fastens deep into the 2 x 4 beyond the door molding, thus making it much more difficult to kick the door in.



- 2. Do NOT leave a spare key under a doormat** or nearby flowerpot.
- 3. Keep your garage door closed** while mowing the backyard and **ESPECIALLY** before you go to bed!

4. Install a peephole on your front door or make sure you have a window to see who is at the door PRIOR to opening the door if someone knocks. If you do not know who is at the door, there is no shame talking to someone through a closed door. In Bedford, **city code requires ALL solicitors to have a city issued laminated badge with their photo** and the ID is to be clearly visible. Call the police immediately if someone is soliciting in the neighborhood without proper identification.

5. Install sliding window locks on all windows (upstairs windows only if easily accessible from the roof).



Prime Line Prod. U 10551 Sliding Window Lock \$1.97 2/pkg

I found these at www.Amazon.com. You can use 1 or 2 per window. By installing these inexpensive locks, Texas law says you can get a **5% REDUCTION** in your **homeowner insurance rates for 3 years**. Simply contact the Bedford Police Department- Community Services Div. at **817-952-2444**. An inspector will visit your home and file a written report with the Texas State Board Insurance, which will issue a Premium Reduction Certificate if your home qualifies. Officer Gardner says the homes in our community meet their requirements once the sliding window locks have been installed. I don't know what your premiums are, but this will save the Allred Ranch about **\$255!**

6. Your house number needs to be clearly visible from the street (painted on curb or displayed on home).

7. Leave outdoor lights on at night- front and back yard. Darkness is a thief's ally.

8. OPERATION IDENTIFICATION - Mark your valuables with your Texas Drivers license number with an engraving tool. Engravers can be checked out from the city free of charge. If your property is stolen and is recovered but not marked, they have no way of determining who it belongs to. Once your belongings have been engraved, make a list of your valuables and store in a safe place. You then will be issued these stickers:



Photograph items that cannot be engraved such as jewelry.

9. Storm doors are good- creates just one more barrier the thief has to deal with- if a home looks like it will take too long to get in, they will just go to the next house or better yet some other neighborhood.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW ?

- Get to know your neighbors, their vehicles and phone numbers.
- If you spot a **suspicious person** or vehicle in the area, **CALL THE POLICE**. **REWIND**.
- If you spot a **suspicious person** or vehicle in the area, **CALL THE POLICE**.
- If it is a false alarm, that's ok! **Do NOT be afraid to call!** Do not think you are "bothering" the police or feel embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Rather, think of what could happen if you DIDN'T act!
- For **emergencies, call 911**. For **non emergencies, call 817-952-2127**
- Info police need: What happened? When? Where? Vehicle license number? Vehicle description? Last known direction? When describing suspects, notice age, race, gender, height, weight and any unusual characteristics.
- **LEAVE NOTHING OF VALUE IN VIEW IN YOUR VEHICLE!**
- SIGN UP for daily or weekly updates with www.crimereports.com

IN OTHER NEWS.....

Brian Gasperson with Grassperson Lawn Care will be spraying the perimeter red tips to treat **black leaf spot** next week. *"For the future, what we tend to see around associations is that the homeowners that constantly over water their properties which cause the most damage to the red tips on the perimeter of the property"*, said Mr. Gasperson. So residents along the perimeter (Bedford Road and Reliance), please be mindful not to over water the red tips to help prevent the black spot disease.



Help keep the red tips looking great- easy on the H2O

Don't forget to contact me ASAP – I need **YOU** to hold a **CRIME WATCH MEETING** on **YOUR** street soon! We need **only about 50-60 more residents** to attend the meeting so we can order **Crime Watch signs**!

It is a pleasure to serve you!

Jeff Allred- President VOP HOA on behalf of the board

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