

DON'T BE A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY

With warm weather more people are out and about, which is also a great time to take precautions and be vigilant of suspicious persons in your community and to avoid presenting targets of opportunity for theft from vehicles or your home.

“Car hopping” in communities can easily be shut down if homeowners are vigilant and remove temptation from would-be car thieves and car burglars. The Crime Prevention Council cannot stress enough the importance of locking your vehicles, and removing all valuables. **Everyone** should lock their vehicles even if the vehicles are garage housed. Other targets of opportunities for crime include leaving doors, windows, and garage doors unlocked, or leaving leaf blowers, mowers, bicycles, ladders, and other personal property unattended. Hover boards, skateboards, and large ticket item “toys” are potential targets as well. Keep your electronic devices with you at all times.

If each of us strives to make our neighborhoods a “safe community” we enhance the quality of our lives and our property values. As good neighbors and caregivers, we ask you to reach out to the elderly and other vulnerable individuals in your neighborhoods and remind them, especially during the warmer weather, when solicitors sprout like weeds, that they should NEVER give strangers any personal information. If it sounds “too good to be true, it usually is”. This includes scams from alleged bill collectors, and bogus warrants being issued for arrest for failure to pay taxes or bills, or demands to show up for jury duty, etc. The message to deliver to potential targets of these scams is that no legitimate business will ask for ANY personal information: Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, including CID codes, addresses, phone numbers, or license numbers. Make sure that the elderly know to hang up, and call the business, government agency or their bank directly for verification. Let’s all do what whatever we can to prevent the vulnerable from becoming victims.