



The Hearth

Hearthstone Board

Issue No. 3

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Newsletter of the Hearthstone Village Community Association
631 Water Meade Place

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HEARTHSTONE ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Hearthstone Village Community Association Meeting will be held Monday, June 30th @ 7pm, at the Wallen Baptist Church.

The election of the District and At-Large Directors for 2014-16 will be held at this meeting. If you would like to nominate from the floor, this will be your opportunity to do so.

Fiscal budget will be discussed for July 1, 2014 to June 30 2015. If you would like some input to the budget be sure to attend this meeting.



Defining service numbers offered by the phone company

211: United Way connecting residents in 19 northern Indiana counties with comprehensive and up-to-date information about social, health and government services. Dial 2-1-1 seven days a week, 24 hours a day and talk to a live phone counselor

311: Fort Wayne City one stop non-emergency call center Mon - Fri 8am - 5:30pm

411: Phone Directory Information

511: Used for deployment assistance and gaining information related to travel

611: Used to get information on your cell phone services.

711: Relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing

811: Used by excavators and the general public to notify underground facility operators in advance of their intent to engage in excavation activities. Call it before you dig to check for underground pipes and utilities.

911: Emergency Response System

Hearthstone Board of Directors

President - Denny McCoy
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Secretary - Dan Culberson
Treasurer - Joe Kumfer
Maintenance - Wes Downing
Architecture - Ron Radeke
Crime & Safety - Bill Smith
Social - Danina Downing

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District 2 - Dean Gorsuch
District 3 - Ronda Roose
District 4 - Lee McAllister
District 5 - Wes Downing
District 6 - Jim Crawford
District 7 - Ron Radeke
District 8 - Tom Sternal
District 9 - Dana Anspach
District 10 - Tama Bradley

Contact information can be found on Hearthstone Association Webpage

"Alone we can do so little.

Together we can do so much"

- Helen Keller

8 Easy (and Cheap) Ways to Prevent Home Theft

A theft expert outlines simple steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances they'll be burglarized



Given all the frightening headlines about exotic mortgage products and under-water home loans, it's easy to forget about the old-fashioned threats to property. But in 2007 alone, there were nearly 2.2 million burglaries in the United States, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates. While that's down slightly from 2006 levels, the figures represent a 1 percent increase from five years earlier. Even worse, more than two thirds of all burglaries in 2007 involved residential properties. But if they approach home theft from the offender's point of view, homeowners can reduce the chances that their home will be targeted, says Steve Houseworth, a program director for Theft Talk, a nonprofit counseling service. In a recent interview with *U.S. News*, Houseworth outlined eight simple and inexpensive steps that owners can take to make their properties less vulnerable to intruders.

1. Sign up: While home security systems are great tools for preventing burglaries, they can be quite expensive. For a more affordable alternative, Houseworth recommends a little trickery: putting a home security sign in your yard without actually obtaining the service. It's an approach Houseworth uses himself—"I'm too cheap," he says. The sign convinces would-be burglars that your home is in fact protected by a security system, which makes them less inclined to target your property. "Just think from a burglar's point of view: 'Am I going to break into the building or the home that has a security system?'" Houseworth says. "Or am I going to go next door to the one that doesn't?"

2. Beware of the garage: Garages are a common entry point for burglars, Houseworth says. Open garage doors serve to advertise your belongings to passersby, which increases the likelihood of theft. So, homeowners should make sure their garage door remains closed anytime they aren't present. "Take away the attractive appeal to what someone might want to steal," Houseworth says.

3. Be a neighbor: Neighbors can play a key role in preventing home thefts. Homeowners on friendly terms with their neighbors are less likely to be victimized by other members of their community. At the same time, closely knit neighbors are more likely to call the police if they see someone suspicious poking around your property. "If they like you and they care about you and they are concerned about their community, then if they see something unusual going on then they will check it out or call the police," Houseworth says. So don't be a hermit: Get out and interact with your neighbors.

4. Keep valuables outside the bedroom: A burglar on the hunt for valuables in a home will make the master bedroom their first stop—since that's where the cash and jewelry are most commonly stored. So if you do keep such valuables on your property, find another room to store them. "I don't keep anything in my bedroom," Houseworth says. "And I don't have much—deliberately—of great value of the small items [that] are the ones burglars like to steal [stored in my home]."

5. No land escaping: Burglars prefer to target homes that have hiding spots and escape routes in the yards, and abundant bushes and trees make for great cover, Houseworth says. As a result, yards with less shrubbery and more open spaces aren't particularly appealing targets. "If the home is open and relatively exposed, a burglar will think, 'I'm going to go in, and if something goes wrong, how am I going to get out of here?'" Houseworth says.

6. Install motion sensors: Light is a great deterrent for nighttime break-ins. Houseworth recommends homeowners install motion sensors on outdoor lights that turn on automatically if someone triggers them. "I have mine hard-wired in, but they have some that are actually screwed in," he says.

7. Radio running: Noise helps prevent burglaries as well. Houseworth leaves his radio on all day so that would-be burglars think that someone is at home. "Your home is more likely to be burglarized during the day because they think that nobody is home," he says.

8. Free police inventory: Homeowners should be sure to remember the basics of home-theft prevention: keeping windows and doors locked at all times. For homeowners looking to go a step further, Houseworth suggests contacting the local police department and having an officer stop by the house for a safety checkup. "I don't know of any police department that if you call them and ask them to do an inventory of your home to help harden it, they won't come out free and give you advice on how to improve your home," Houseworth says.

Hearthstone website
<http://www.hvcafw.org>

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Crime reports and questions to:
CrimeAndSafety@hvcafw.org

If you want an update for the
Hearthstone Directory, please
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directory@hvcafw.org

Please include name, phone,
and home address so we can
be sure your listing is correct.

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