

## Security TIPS

Over the years, Crownridge residents have played a significant role in assisting the police with the capture of a few criminals who committed multiple crimes within Crownridge. Residents' actions have enabled the police to return important documents and personal property to their rightful owners. Thanks to your vigilance and providing information to the police and to us in a timely manner, our neighborhood is safer. Thank you for being a good citizen and a good neighbor.

Following are some safety and security tips:

➤ If you witness an emergency situation or what you deem as an emergency, immediately call the police at 911. If it is not an emergency, call 207-SAPD (this is the same number as 207-7273). One of these numbers should ALWAYS be your FIRST step. The police are on call 24/7. It is important to provide as much detail as possible when identifying vehicles, e.g., make, model, old/new/damaged, color, license number or suspects, e.g., race/ethnicity, sex, age, clothing, hair color, shoes. Let's keep the police (and each other) informed. (No police reports or statements, no criminal charges.)

If you are concerned about making a mistake or getting some "poor soul" in trouble, do not worry. Call the police and let the police check things out. If that "poor soul" is innocent, you have done no harm.

If you are concerned about the police being too busy and having more important things to do, do not fret. Call the police and let them prioritize your call. Your call could be the most important thing they handle that day. Your call could lead to an arrest of a criminal and to making your home and our community safer.

If you wonder if the student-solicitor is simply trying to raise money for his education, do not be concerned. Call the police and let them verify that the student-solicitor is legitimate.

If you are concerned when a person without identification knocks on your door and ask for a water sample or needs to check the cable connection, call the police--even if you decline their request. The police can confirm their identity and perhaps help us avert a scam.

➤ Always lock your doors, including your back door(s). Surprisingly, many residents fail to do the latter per SAPD. If you prefer to leave your back door unlocked and have a security alarm, please remember to set the alarm.

➤ Remember to remove your garage door opener transmitter from your vehicle every night if you leave your vehicle outside (or disable your garage door opener). Remove all valuables every day/night. Leaving valuable items in view in your vehicle is like leaving leftovers outside on your deck...some varmint will come to feed on it and they will keep returning until you stop supplying them. If you leave items in your car, consider leaving the door unlocked and save yourself a broken window. Criminals often gain entrance through a back window; back windows are usually not part of the vehicle's alarm system.

➤ Articles re: solicitors in Crownridge as well as the final report from Crownridge's Safety and Security Committee can be viewed on Crownridge's website ([crownridgehoa.com](http://crownridgehoa.com)) under "Community Safety."

➤ Unless you live in Walden Meadows or Legend Hollow or Walden Point, Crownridge's streets are public streets. For public streets to become gated ALL (100%) of the residents would have to agree. If you would like to start a petition and gather signatures, we welcome your participation. Nonetheless, even gated areas experience crime.

Gates give a false sense of security. Don't believe us? Ask SAPD. Or look at facts. One of

the most upscale communities with manned security gates 24/7/365 and roving patrols has had multiple home and car burglaries. A second community comparable in size and income to Crownridge employs off-duty SAPD 24/7 at a cost of approximately \$200,000/year and experiences a crime rate similar to Crownridge.

➤What more can you do? You are strongly encouraged to attend a Cellular on Patrol (COP) class administered by SAPD. This does not commit you in any way to any other activity. It does not commit you to being a member or even in participating in Cellular on Patrol. What it does is give you information, tools, increases your awareness, and enables you to be a better, more vigilant citizen, regardless of where you live or work.

Use common sense and pay attention to that gut or innate feeling. There will be more criminals around here. Let's all be alert and aware of our surroundings.

Our community email blasts have been crucial in disseminating significant information quickly. Prior to the blast email communication system being used, homeowners had no organized way of sharing information. Now we do. It has been a valuable tool.

In sharing this information, please do not think we are discounting your safety concerns in any way; the purpose of sharing this information is to highlight the city-wide issue with vandalism regardless of crime prevention measures taken. The greatest crime prevention tool is a friendly, nosy neighbor per SAPD.

Utopia is a town in Texas or a word in fiction books. In reality, crime is here to stay. You can make a difference, if you so choose. To those who did so choose, we again say thank you for your support and cooperation in making Crownridge a safer community. Power is in numbers and in knowledge.