



John V. Hansen
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With the warm weather months upon us, you should consider taking a few basic security precautions.

If you are going on vacation it is recommended that you:

1. Set your burglar alarm.
2. Have someone pick up your newspapers and packages.
3. Have your grass cut.
4. Leave your lights on a timer.
5. Have a key holder check the house.
6. Contact the Cranbury Police Department and have your house put on our empty home list.
7. Photograph and hide your jewelry if you do not have a safety deposit box.
8. Play a talk radio station on your stereo.

Please make sure your assigned key holder has your alarm code. As required by Township Ordinance, all business and residential alarms must be registered with the police department. You may contact the Cranbury Township Police Department at 609-395-0031 for more information. Burglar alarm forms are also on the township web page.

The Cranbury Police Department offers free home security surveys. During the survey, an officer will check your doors, windows and locks. If any improvements are needed, the officer will write them down and present the list to the home owner. Upon request, a video tape of valuables can also be made and given to the home owner. Arrangements for a home security survey can be made by calling Chief Hansen or Captain Kahler at 609-395-0031.

Please report any suspicious persons claiming to be with the gas, water or sewer company that do not display proper identification **immediately**. Cranbury Township Public Works employees carry identification cards. You can contact your utility providers for information concerning the identification of their employees.

In the most recent scam, one suspect approached the home owner and demanded money for work they said was completed. Meanwhile, a second suspect entered the home and removed cash and jewelry. Please be sure to lock your doors and close your garage if you are going to be away from the house for any amount of time, or if you are going to be in the back yard. Scam artists will usually attempt a theft during the day or early evening. They generally prey on the elderly.

GPS units, cell phones and tools are still a popular item for thieves. They generally look for unlocked vehicles, open sheds and unattended tools. Residents should also lock their car, set the alarm and remove all their valuables (GPS devices, CD players and cell phones).

Another concern is identity theft. Thieves can obtain your personal information in a number of ways.

1. Stealing your mail.
2. Hacking into your information over the internet.
3. Posing as a creditor trying to confirm your personal information.
4. Posing as you to get information from your creditors.

Crosscut shredders are inexpensive compared to the aggravation involved in re-establishing your credit. It is suggested that any document with your personal information be shredded.

You may also consider contacting the major credit information services about limiting access to your personal information. You may want to contact your bank or credit card company to find out what their privacy policy is.