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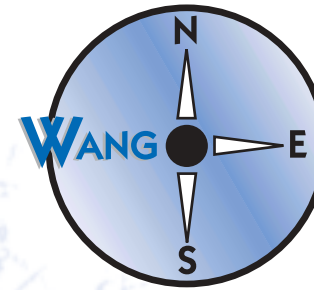
April 1st, 2002, 7:00 pm
 Howson Branch Library

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

West Austin Neighborhood Group

P.O. Box 5722
 Austin, Texas 78763-5722



West Austin Neighborhood Group

Organized 1973

*"To preserve our neighborhood
 and protect it from deterioration."*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Pascoe
 President

Michael Cannatti
 President-Elect

Gwen Jewiss
 Vice-President

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 Secretary

Ian Inglis
 Treasurer

Erik Cary
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Blake Tollett
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 Linda Neavel Dickens
 Balie Griffith
 Hal Katz
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 Hon. Beverly Griffith
 Hon. Ann Kitchen
 Hon. Will Wynn

Background Photo of Lime Kiln #PICA24140,
 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

THE NEIGHBOR

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722

March, 2002

President's Message
March 2002 MEMBERSHIP

Members are any association's most precious assets. Without members, organizations simply would not have a reason to be. So, I want to thank all of you sincerely for your current and, I hope, continuing support.

I realize that the demands of today's world often can reduce membership participation in an organization to nothing more than sending in the renewal. But I hope your membership in this neighborhood organization can be much more meaningful. Although I certainly encourage you to send in your renewal when it is time, I do not want that to be the only occasion that you interact with us. WANG needs the energy of involved members to be truly representative.

The WANG Executive Committee takes seriously the organization's goal "To preserve the neighborhood and protect it from deterioration." We need to hear from you about how we are doing. What about communication? Do you receive the information from us that you need? The three "official" regular forms of WANG communication are this newsletter, the web site, and the monthly meeting.

Help us to meet your needs as neighborhood residents and organization members. Please tell us what works and what does not work for you.

Does the newsletter give you enough information about the ongoing activities of your neighborhood organization? Do you need more detail about certain items? Any particular topic or topics you would like addressed in the president's monthly message?

Have you investigated our web site - www.deepeddy.com/wang? It contains a wealth of information that you may find useful. Your Board, Officers, and Committees are listed, all with contact information, and there is even a copy of the Bylaws, for some light reading. The "Neighborhood Attractions" section lists our parks and provides fascinating information on some of the areas of historical interest within our boundaries. Links to other sites of assistance or interest are available under the "Helpful Information" section.

There is much more, so I encourage to explore the web site and give us your thoughts.

Our regular meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7PM at the Howson Library Branch on Exposition Boulevard. The meetings adjourn at 8:45PM. If you do not usually attend, please consider it. Your Board, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons enjoy meeting members in person. We frequently learn new and interesting things. In March, meeting participants heard "Aquifer 101" by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and completed a graduate student survey on community gardens; in April, we will hear about Ariel Dance Theatre. So put the date on your calendar and plan to join us for at least one meeting - maybe you will enjoy yourself so much you will become a regular!

Now, a reminder, so you can stay a part of this activity. When your newsletter arrives, check the label and note the date. That is the date your membership expires. Please do not let that happen! Mark your calendar and keep WANG in your life!

Susan Pascoe
 494-1386
spascoe@ascensionhealth.org

Meeting Minutes March 4, 2002

Attending Board Members: Hal Katz, Joe Bennett, Michael Cannatti, Blake Tollett, Erik Cary, Susan Pascoe, Balie Griffith, Ian Inglis, Gwen Jewiss, Joyce Basciano, Emily Covich.

Guests: Jackie Brown, Gail McGlamery, Edward Bellingrath (various other WANG neighbors attended the meeting).

Citizen Communication

Jackie Brown - Ms. Brown is asking that the neighborhood participate in a study regarding community gardens to serve low-income residents. If you are interested in participating in Ms. Brown's survey she may be contacted at jackie.brown@mail.utexas.edu.

Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.deepeddy.com/wang>!

Gail McGlamery - Ms. McGlamery is with the Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. She presented a slide show regarding the Edwards Aquifer and the percolation of water from surface water to ground water in the aquifer. Ms. McGlamery discussed the filtration of water through the porous layer of limestone into the various segments of the aquifer—Northern, Southern, and Barton Springs. She noted that the aquifer is home to several endangered species like the Barton Springs Salamander, found only in the Barton Springs segment of the aquifer, and other wildlife in the area such as armadillos, grey fox, bobcats, ring-tailed cats, grey squirrels. One of the most famous is the golden-cheeked warbler, whose habitat is believed to be threatened by development.

Ms. McGlamery indicated that with significant help from an Environmental Protection Agency grant administered by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the District is protecting and enhancing water flow entering the aquifer through Onion Creek in the area of two cave entrances in the creek bed. The entrances have become blocked by debris, which have prevented storm waters from recharging the aquifer. Ms. McGlamery noted that keeping cave and sink hole entrances such as these free from trash, debris, and sedimentation is critical to both the quality and quantity of the recharge.

Ms. McGlamery also provided helpful advice concerning the application of pesticides and fertilizers. By applying these chemicals during times when heavy rain is not expected, storm waters will not wash the chemicals into the aquifer. The directions on the labels should be strictly followed to prevent over-application, and the use of organic or natural substances are preferable. She also pointed out that no chemicals of any type should ever be stored above a well opening or near or adjacent to pipelines or underground storage tanks. Finally, automobiles, which are significant contributors to underground water pollution should be properly maintained.

Edward Bellingrath - Mr. Bellingrath indicated that, despite Camp Mabry's efforts to alleviate many of the neighborhood's concerns, he is still concerned for the long-term potential for development. Board members Susan Pascoe, Michael Cannatti, and Hal Katz indicated that they believed these concerns were speculative at this point, especially since Camp Mabry had made efforts to include the neighborhood in their plans. Nevertheless, Hal Kats indicated that he

would follow-up regarding Mr. Bellingrath's concerns that the Homeland Defense Security Council headquarters might be located at Camp Mabry, or any other development plans, and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Zoning

2610 Exposition - it was noted that WANG has received no notice from the Board of Adjustments concerning this project.

2201 Woodmont - the previously reported variance request was denied in an unprecedented 5 - 0. The request might be up for reconsideration, however.

Presbyterian Church - although there have been no formal requests, the Church which is located two blocks from the intersection of 35th Street and Exposition, may have expansion plans in the future. Plans have apparently been drawn for the expansion of their fellowship hall and possibly a two story underground parking garage. The Church has indicated that they will consult WANG if and when they plan to act of their plans. Emily Covich noted that an underground parking garage likely would be viewed as neighborhood friendly.

Communications

It was reported that the communications subcommittee met, with the primary topic of discussion being the expanded newsletter. Various topics for informative articles in the newsletter were discussed.

Transportation

Joe Bennett reported that he has been working on a spreadsheet and color coded map of MoPac corridor houses so that all houses that were built in 1952 or before will be highlighted for use in identifying houses of possible historical significance. Mr. Bennett indicated that the subcommittee's long-range plans were that once these houses are identified, a limited number of photographs could be taken of some of the representative houses. This would enable the subcommittee to then present the data to the State Historical Commission. With the information, the State Historical Commission could then determine whether the houses were of historical significance.

Ian Inglis provided an update on the MoPac situation. Ian indicated that the Texas Department of Transportation has decided to call off efforts to expand MoPac north of the river. He indicated that they have turned their efforts to the possible development of MoPac south of the river and specifically the possibility of HOV lanes in this area. He and other

committee members noted that the primary problem in such a plan was determining where to terminate the HOV lanes.

Liaison

It was reported by Balie Griffith that he attended the Austin Neighborhood Council meeting.

Membership

Ian Inglis reported that WANG presently has 379 current members. He noted, however, that a substantial number of members had not renewed their membership. Ian indicated his concern in a significant drop-off in membership if new members are not added as some members fail to renew their membership. Ian urges that all executive committee members make efforts to add to membership.

Treasurer's Report

The following account balances were reported: Checking \$915.44; Savings \$5,165.51; Oak Wilt - \$1,191.51.


New Business

Parking in Front Yard - it was mentioned that the City is presently considering plans to create an ordinance against parking in the front yard of one's house. It was noted that the ordinance would be neighborhood specific. Several committee members indicated their belief that WANG members would likely overwhelmingly support this ordinance. Ian Inglis motioned that WANG formally ask to be included in the neighborhoods governed by the ordinance. Blake Tollett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. Susan Pascoe agreed to notify the city of the decision.

—Minutes Prepared by Gwen Jewiss

West Austin Neighborhood Group Executive Committee Meeting April 1, 2002

- I. Call to Order
- II. Citizen Communications
Cindy Amezquita-Fairchild –
Ariel Dance Theatre
- III. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Zoning
 - B. Communications
 - C. Transportation
 - D. Liaison
 - E. Neighborhood Plan
 - F. Membership
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. New/Old Business
- VII. Adjourn (8:45p)



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Barbara Watt
Mayfield Gardens Volunteer dividing heirloom plants.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 

Take care of your neighborhood! Send in this membership form or call Blake Tollett at 477-4028. Please take forms to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join WANG. An active membership will be a strong voice that's heard when critical issues are debated.

Want to Influence City Policy? Join a City board/commission

The City of Austin has more than 50 active boards and commissions, many of which are looking for members. The boards and commissions are composed of citizens appointed by the City Council. Several, such as the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment, are sovereign boards with decision-making authority. Others are advisory boards that provide the Council recommendations for action.

Participating on a board or commission offers citizens an extraordinary opportunity to participate in a city's governmental affairs. Their activities may help to shape or influence public policy in many areas. Service on a board or commission usually requires a time commitment of a few hours a month, depending on the board.

To serve the City on a board or commission, a person must be a resident of the city, unless specifically exempted by ordinance. Applications for appointment are submitted to the Office of the City Clerk for consideration by Council Members. You may obtain an application by contacting the Boards and Commissions Coordinator at (512) 974-2497 or via the City's Web site at <http://cityofaustin.org/cityclerk/boards.htm>. The site also includes specific information on each board and commission and vacancy.

Contact: Julia Lee, Boards and Commissions Coordinator,
(512) 974-2497

- Yes, I want to join WANG.
- I want to renew my WANG membership.

I have enclosed:

- \$20 household membership
- \$10 student/senior membership

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Phone _____ Fax _____

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Register now to vote in May 4 municipal election. If you want to vote in the May 4 Austin municipal election, you must be registered by April 4. The ballot will include three Council positions and possible changes to the City Charter. Early voting will be April 17 through April 30.

Mail-in ballots must be received by the Office of the City Clerk by April 26. Request a mail-in ballot for the City of Austin election by calling (512) 974-2210.

For more about voter registration, early voting sites or other election information, check Austin City Connection, the official Web site of the City of Austin, at www.cityofaustin.org/election/.

The Clerk's Office also seeks people to work at polling sites (both for early voting and Election Day) and election night as returns are counted. Call the Clerk's Office, 974-2210, for details.



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IH 35 Project Public Meetings

TxDOT will hold three public meetings in April and May on the Major Investment Study for IH 35 improvement project. The proposals include adding a High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane and other improvements to IH 35 from Georgetown to Buda. All improvements are consistent with the CAMPO 2025 Transportation Plan, adopted in 2000.

CENTRAL

Thursday, April 25
University of Texas - LBJ Auditorium
2313 Red River

NORTH

Tuesday, May 7
Round Rock High School
Main Gym
1311 Round Rock Avenue

SOUTH

Thursday, May 9
Akens High School
Small Gym
10701 South First Street

All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.
For more information, contact Creola Burns, Public Involvement Coordinator at 448-4459.

WILLIAM WALSH AND TARRYTOWN TALES

Alison Wilson Hanks
Hanks Oral History Foundation

Have you ever wondered where the "Walsh" in "Walsh Boat Landing" comes from? It comes via William Walsh, a man extraordinaire. How else can you describe a man who selected his own birthday, was "invited" (impressed) to join the British Navy, participated in the Civil War, built and owned Austin's first sewer system, established the first white lime company in Austin (1869) and owned 40 acres on Lake Austin, as well as Davenport Ranch?

Walsh owned all of what we now know of as Davenport Ranch. He cut trees from that property, floated them down Lake Austin, up through the slough still visible along Scenic Drive to his kiln west of the intersection of Cherry and Rockmoor, which still stands today. The limestone for the kiln was cut from a quarry, located where houses from 1801 to 1813 Rockmoor now stand. In 1896, Walsh moved his Austin White Lime Company to Round Rock, where it was known for years as the Round Rock White Lime Company.

Known as "Walsh Place" on tax records, the Walsh family owned 40 acres from Enfield to Windsor, and

Robin Hood to the middle of Lake Austin. The area was known in the family as "Sherwood Forest," hence the street name "Robin Hood."

In the 1940's, local real estate agent Tommy Thomas asked them if they wanted the street named "McGinnis." When they replied that they didn't, he said, "Okay, I'll just name it after my wife, Bonnie," and Bonnie Road it has been ever since. Some twenty years later the City of Austin purchased the land for what is now Walsh Boat Landing from the Walsh family.

The old Walsh Homestead once stood in the middle of what is now the city parking lot on the south of Bonnie just before it intersects Lake Austin Blvd. The cistern for the house is now 3708 Bonnie Road. Another Walsh family member, James Walsh, (William Walsh's son), and his wife, Leanna, built the home at 3701 Bonnie Road in the middle to late 1920's.

In 1939, stones from the homestead were used by William Walsh's daughter, Kate Walsh McGinnis, and her husband, Louis "Mack" McGinnis, to build their house at 3714 Bonnie Road. Currently, Walsh's great-granddaughter Kathleen Belshan Howell and her husband Jack occupy this home.

Born in Limrick, County Kerry, Ireland in 1837 into a large, poor family, William Walsh didn't grow up celebrating birthdays so he wasn't quite sure of

his day of birth. He selected Christmas Day, his reasoning being if it was good enough for Jesus, it was good enough for him.

Following service in the Civil War, Walsh worked for the U.S. Government making lime for the building and rebuilding of forts in Texas, such as Fort McKavit in 1868.

In the early 1870's, he met Dora Koch in Galveston. They married and moved to Austin where he established the Austin White Lime Company in 1869. Dora and William Walsh had nine children (four of whom died young) in addition to her son from a previous marriage, William J. Walsh, who was adopted by Walsh.

Kathleen Belshan Howell recalls her childhood spent playing at the edge of the lake. It was all open countryside then, gravel roads with three houses along Scenic (beginning 1600 Scenic Dr.). She remembers her mother, Kathleen Walsh Belshan, keeping her horse on (what is now) Bonnie Road and the 40 acres.

Kate (Walsh) and Louis "Mack" McGinnis owned the land around 3607 Meredith, the location of the mouth of a vast cavern. Mrs. Howell remembers her "Aunt Kate" telling her the cave extended to the Capitol (some say UT) and had a beautiful crystal room. In the 1940's the mouth of the cave was filled in because people kept getting "lost" in the caverns underneath.

Walsh Boat Landing and the kiln stand in tribute to a lively Irishman who left home at fourteen and found adventure the rest of his life.

Sources:

Oral History interview with Kathleen Belshan Howell on 29 March 2001

Austin American-Statesman, December 12, 1982

Historical Round Rock, Texas; Karen R. Thompson and Jane H. DiGesualdo

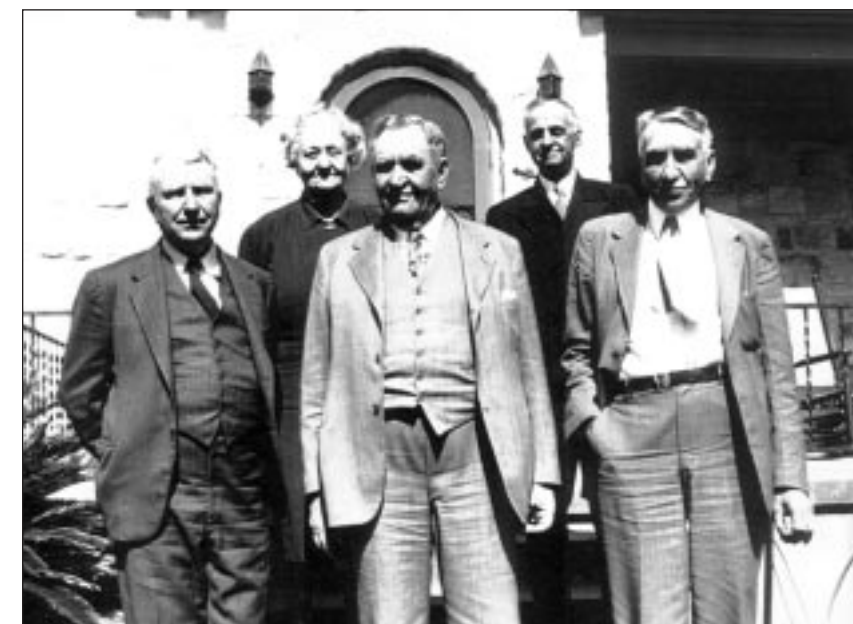


Photo on left taken 1 March 1946 (Kate Walsh McGinnis' birthday), standing on the porch of 3714 Bonnie Road.

Left to Right:
Ed Walsh, Kate Walsh McGinnis, Mike Walsh, Will Walsh (adopted son from Walsh's wife's first marriage), Pat Walsh.

Reed Park Update

As the icy winds blew and many West Austin neighbors were hunkered down at home with hot coffee and warm blankets on Saturday, March 2, several intrepid members of Boy Scout Troop 399 were hard at work beautifying Reed Park. Taking only short breaks for donuts and soda, the boys and their dads helped aerate and mulch the ground around the park's centerpiece live oaks. After a Parks Department forestry crew dug two big holes, the scouts planted two new trees at the play area. Afterwards, there was more mulching to do. By noon, more than eighteen yards of mulch had been spread around several trees. The sun was finally shining and the winds had stilled.

All this feverish activity on a chilly day was the second part of a project funded in part by the Austin Parks Foundation and WANG. The first part included inoculation of those live oaks to protect them from oak wilt, and professional pruning. The inoculation occurred in November, courtesy of Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas. Guy LeBlanc of Arbor Vitae Tree Care pruned the trees in January.

The two trees planted in March were funded by WANG to honor Dudley Houghton and memorialize Robin Spear. Dudley's tree is a Chinquapin Oak, located near the concrete picnic tables at the play area. The Chinquapin Oak grows well in central Texas and complements the other species of oak already in the park. It is also immune to oak wilt. This tree replaces a large hackberry that had reached an unsafe state of deterioration and was cut down last fall.

Robin's tree is a native pecan, located just south of the playscape. Over time we hope it will provide shade for the toddler swings. There are no other pecan trees in the park.

The final phase of this project, which has also been supported generously by many contributors to Friends of Reed Park, involves watering the new trees for two years. With continuing cooperation from the Aquatics Department, we will be using the pool hose to water the trees twice a week. **Anyone who would like to volunteer for a regular shift in watering, please contact Ann Phipps at 472-3199. This would be a great gift back to the park from any playgroups or dog-walkers who use the park regularly.**

—Ann Phipps



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READ ACROSS TEXAS!

Summer Reading Program to begin at Austin Public Library

For more than 30 years, the Austin Public Library has provided an annual reading program for Austin youth of all ages. The 2002 program theme will be "READ ACROSS TEXAS!" The eight-week program begins on Monday, June 3, and ends on Friday, July 26.

The primary purpose of the program is to encourage children to maintain and improve their reading skills during the summer months when school is not in session. The Summer Reading Program is self-paced. Each participant will receive a certificate of participation and game board with instructions. Children and young adults are encouraged to visit the John Henry Faulk Central Library or any one of 20 neighborhood branch libraries to register for the program. Children who do not yet read may take part by being read to.

Visit the Library for videos, CD-ROMs, Internet computers, magazines, music, books, and much more! Sign-up for a free Austin Public Library Youth Star Card.

Storytimes will be offered at Library locations, as well as ECHO'S Summer Reading Program Special Events. Also watch for Summer Reading Program Kick-Off and Finale Celebrations. Check Austin Public Library's Youth Guide the "Bridge" for a complete listing.



Howson Branch
2500 Exposition Blvd.
June 4 – July 24.



Storytimes, all ages, Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. *Groups (childcare centers, registered family homes, schools, etc.) call Youth Librarian Dianna Hanshew at (512) 974-7419 to make arrangements in advance.

ECHO'S Summer Reading Program 2002 Special Events, ages 5 and up, Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., free tickets required.

For more information about youth programs call the Youth Services Hotline at (512) 974-7302 or visit our Website at [Http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/kids.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/kids.htm)

—Dianna Hanshew



Joni K. Wallace, DDS
TarryTown Center
2414 Exposition Blvd.
Suite B105
(512) 236-1611

Update on Enfield area projects

We have new developments and more information to report about the Enfield area projects.

Enfield Road Project (Exposition to Lamar)

Early this year, we reported that construction for this large project would be delayed to some time in the fall. As we then reported, what had been scheduled as a street reconstruction project was in the process of expanding to include utility work. That expansion has required additional design work. Since then, further wastewater work has been added to the scope of the project.

We now have concluded that we cannot complete all of the design work needed and start work in the late fall, as planned. We therefore are re-scheduling this project for start-up in mid-2003, giving us time to complete the design for the utilities additions and move the project through the usual advertisement, bid, and Council processes. A benefit of this schedule is that the project will start after the 2003 Legislative session ends. Paulinda Lanham-Mackie will remain the project manager and will provide continuing progress reports. She can be reached at 974-7178, if you have questions.

West Lynn Road Reconstruction Project

The West Lynn project (between Palma Plaza and W. 6th Street) should start in late May of this year and is expected to take about seven months to complete. Because West Lynn is a two-lane road, detours will divert southbound traffic only around each phase of construction. This project does not include any road or intersection widening. Dennis Crabill serves as the project manager and can be reached at 974-7232. You will hear from us again about this project as we approach construction start up.

New information on Enfield/Parkway Project (Windsor Rd. to Lamar Blvd., or "Old Enfield")

This project is scheduled for start up in June or July of this year. The project consists of installing new water and wastewater (sewer) line, followed by pavement overlay of Old Enfield. The project does not include any road or intersection widening and is expected to take about six months. Anne Scharlach is the project manager (974-5626).

Thank you.

Paulinda Lanham-Mackie, Project Manager, Enfield Road Project
Dennis Crabill, Project Manager, West Lynn Project
Anne Scharlach, Project Manager, Enfield/Parkway Project

Police Update

The Austin Police Department wants to help make your 2002 one of the safest. We look forward to working closely with you to reduce all neighborhood-based crime in your community.

You can make it more difficult for a burglar to steal your items by making sure your house is secure. The most common method of entry in residential burglaries is an unlocked door or window. Any window or door can be used, and just because it's on the second or third floor doesn't mean that a desperate thief can't reach it. Ask yourself: If I were locked out of my house, how would I get in? That's exactly what the bad guy thinks when he is casing your home. Make sure that you have deadbolt locks installed on your exterior doors so that your lock cannot be jimmied. Make sure that you install supplemental locking devices on all your windows so that the frame can't easily be pushed in and the latch opened. Trim tall hedges and brush that obscure the front and side areas of your house so that your neighbor can see suspicious activity.

Too much to remember and do all by yourself? We can help. Call Officer Andy Dixon at 974-5342 and ask for a Free Home Security Inspection. Officer Dixon has a group of volunteers who will come out and inspect your house from a crime-prevention point of view. They will offer advice and submit your house for an insurance discount if it meets certain standards.

You can make it more difficult to have your car broken into simply by keeping all items of value out of view. If you leave your \$2000 laptop computer on the front seat, if you leave your purse where it can be seen, if you leave anything out that even looks like it can be valuable, it can and will be stolen. Locking your car doors and installing an alarm will not discourage a car burglar from quickly breaking out your window and making off with you belongings. Having \$10 in loose change stolen from your car may not matter to you, but the shattered window surely will. One of the newest trends is sitting in a parking lot (mall, club, business) and waiting for people to get out of cars and lock their valuables in their trunk. Thieves then break the car window, pop the interior trunk release, and make off with the items. Again, if someone sees something in a car that they think is valuable, they may try to take it. Just don't leave valuable things in your car, and don't be seen putting your purse or other valuable items in the trunk.

Finally, be sure to record all the important serial numbers and other markings on all your valuables. Even better, mark all your valuables with an engraver or indelible ink kit with your social security number or drivers license number & state. If the worst does happen and your valuables are stolen, identification makes them not only easier to return to you, but it also makes prosecution of the thief a lot easier. Remember, make the crook's life hard!

Sara Madera
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