

Balcones Civic Association
P.O.Box 26864
Austin, Texas 78755-0864

www.main.org/bca

Summer 2004 Newsletter

PREVENTING PROPERTY CRIMES

As you read in the Winter 2004 BCA newsletter, burglary of a vehicle (BOV) continues to be the most prevalent crime in the northwest area of Austin. The second most prevalent crime is another type of non-violent crime, burglary of a residence. Even though apartment complexes are hit more frequently with both types of burglary than are single family dwellings, burglars appear to be moving more and more into our residential areas. For this reason, the BCA Executive Committee decided that we needed to devote a large portion of this newsletter to property crime prevention.

Printed on the enclosed insert is a vacation check list, with a suspect identification profile on the other side. The identification profile can be used to describe any type of suspect: robbery, burglary, etc. On page 3 is a list of tips for preventing burglary of your home and your vehicle. These suggestions are from the Austin Police Department.

Having a household inventory is crucial in helping the police identify your property when a burglary suspect is apprehended. You should photograph your jewelry and other non-electronic valuables. You should have your electronic equipment engraved with your driver's license number or otherwise labeled (see below) so that it can be identified if the burglar tries to sell it. Our police liaison for the northwest area, Sr. Officer Mike Dunn, has volunteered to help residents in our area take a household inventory and to assess other ways to improve home security. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Officer Dunn for a household security and inventory assessment, please call him at 974-5553. Working with the Austin Police Dept., we can help prevent property crimes.

Mary M. Tannahill, Editor

Protect Your Property and Car Parts with Labels

Security labels for auto parts and personal property are available from the Texas Action Council on Theft (TACT), a non-profit organization of insurance companies working with law enforcement and concerned citizens to reduce theft in Texas. According to information from TACT, each label is printed with a visible I.D. number such as a driver's license number or vehicle identification number (VIN). The tamper-proof label is very difficult to remove once it is placed on your personal property or vehicle. Even if the label is removed, it will leave a permanent I.D. number on painted metal or hard plastic surfaces which can be viewed by police with an ultraviolet light. To obtain an order form for labels, call 512-458-8214 or 800-286-9801.

Mark your Calendar! BCA Monthly Meetings

Bank Building at 7800 MoPac
NW corner of MoPac & Spicewood Springs
First floor east conference room
Third Wednesday of each month

June 16, 2004 **7:00 PM**
July 21, 2004 **7:00 PM**
Aug. 18, 2004 **7:00 PM**

BCA Officers 2003-2004

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| President | Tom Arbuckle | 454-9003 |
| Vice President | Stanley Moos | 345-4594 |
| Secretary | Louise Epstein | 340-0030 |
| Treasurer | Jack Jennings | 231-1032 |
| Past President | Mary Tannahill | 343-1573 |

BCA Executive Committee Representatives

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| | Sector 1 | |
| Belinda Herrera | | 346-6126 |
| & Ann Trentin | | 346-6974 |
| Elizabeth Gunter | | 343-1218 |
| Lee Melugin | | 345-4440 |
| Mary Tannahill | | 343-1573 |

| | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| | Sector 2 | |
| Joe Makeever | | 345-0800 |
| John Rhodes | | 345-0778 |
| Gwen Sederholm | | 345-0720 |
| Monroe Zoch | | 345-0687 |

| | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| | Sector 3 | |
| Tom Arbuckle | | 454-9003 |
| Watson Howell | | 346-6042 |
| Jack Jennings | | 231-1032 |
| Linda Keeling | | 345-4704 |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | Sector 4 | |
| Louise Epstein | | 340-0030 |
| Rick Bradstreet | | 338-9907 |
| Stanley Moos | | 345-4594 |
| Bill Walters | | 231-0866 |

At-Large Representatives

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Tony Aterno | 346-3437 |
| Mary De Ginder | 346-2115 |
| Bill Pierson | 343-9122 |
| Sam Robertson | 343-7659 |

Advisor: Jim Hooser

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--|--|
| New Non-Emergency number | 311 |
| Main Switchboard | 974-5000 |
| WebSite | www.cityofaustin.org/police |
| Northwest Area Command | 974-5500 |
| Abandoned Vehicles | 280-0075 |
| Auto Theft Info (H.E.A.T. & VIN etching) | 974-5713 |
| Crime Stoppers | 472-8477 |
| Graffiti Removal | 854-4125 |
| Community Liaison Office | 459-1877 |
| Traffic Office | 974-5789 |
| Victim Services | 974-5037 |

CITY OF AUSTIN

| | |
|---|--|
| Main Switchboard | 974-2000 |
| WebSite | www.cityofaustin.org |
| Animal Control | 972-6060 |
| Dead Animals (Solid Waste Services) | 494-9400 |
| Dogs running loose | 974-6033 |
| Flooding Complaints | 974-3355 |
| Garbage Pickup (Solid Waste Services) | 494-9400 |
| Handicapped Curb Ramps | 974-6426 |
| Home Chemicals Collection | 974-4343 |
| Illegal Dumping | 494-9400 |
| Mosquito Infestation | 972-5692 |
| Night Watchman Lights Installation | 505-7617 |
| Noise Complaints | 311 |
| Pothole Complaints or obstructions in roadway | 440-8444 |
| School Sidewalk Safety | 974-7240 |
| School Zone Light Malfunction | 457-4851 |
| Stop Signs | 457-4885 |
| Street Light Installation | 505-7617 |
| Street Light Repair (Austin Energy) | 505-7617 |
| Street and Bridge Repairs | 440-8444 |
| Street Signs Down | 457-4885 |
| Traffic Signal Malfunction | 457-4850 |
| Weeds & Trash on private or city property | 972-5600 |

Watershed Protection Dept. **974-2550**

Call to report environmental spills or deliberate dumping
(e.g. dumping of used motor oil, etc.)

Austin Police Department Northwest Area Commander's Forum

Date/Time: August 10, 2004 7:00 PM

Location: To be announced (call the NW area admin. assistant at 974-5589 in early Aug. for location)

Police Dept. management discusses recent crimes and arrests, and solicits input from attendees regarding neighborhood crime and quality of life concerns.

Tips on Preventing Residential Burglaries

1. Keep garage doors closed and locked.
2. Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
3. Keep all exterior doors and windows locked, especially those with entry into your garage.
4. Secure sliding doors and windows with pin locks, a broom handle, or metal bar.
5. Use proper exterior lighting.
6. Mark your property with an engraver or labels.
7. Leave a light on. If you are going to be gone, attach an interior lamp to a 24-hr timer.
8. Purchase an alarm system.
9. Work together with your neighbors, especially when one of you will be gone.

Tips on Preventing Burglary of a Vehicle

Burglars are currently entering vehicles by breaking a window, which usually does not cause the vehicle alarm system to go off. The best way to prevent a burglary of your vehicle is to not leave anything of value visible in the passenger compartment. Store all valuables in the trunk, out of sight. Call 911 to report any suspicious activity occurring in or around parked vehicles in your neighborhood.

Useful Web Sites & Phone Numbers

Austin Police Dept. (APD) crime statistics

View crime statistics by census tract or neighborhood association boundary by logging on to:
www.cityofaustin.org/police

Balcones Civic Association

Need oak wilt or other information from a recent BCA newsletter? Just log on to **www.main.org/bca** and click on "Newsletters."

Travis Central Appraisal District

To look up appraisal values for properties near you, log on to **www.traviscad.org**

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

The FTC's web site has information on how to report spam e-mail and how to avoid it. Log on to **www.ftc.gov/privacy**

Another good web site to consult for information on spam avoidance is **<http://spam.abuse.net>**

Better Business Bureau of Central Texas

Want to know if a service company has treated previous customers fairly or not? Get information about that company from the Central TX Better Business Bureau by calling them at 512-445-2911 or by logging onto their web site at:
www.centraltx.bbb.org

City of Austin Public Information Office

Want to find out what is going on in various city agencies or obtain information on upcoming city-wide events? Just log on to the web site for the City of Austin's monthly bulletin entitled "At Your Doorstep." You can find it at:
www.ci.austin.tx.us/doorstep/

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Citizens of Austin and Travis County can get rid of unwanted chemicals, paint, cleaners, fertilizers, pesticides automotive fluids and pool chemicals by bringing them to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2514 Business Center Dr. in Southeast Austin. It is open from noon to 7 PM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

See **www.austinrecycles.com**

CRIME PREVENTION EVENT: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Aug. 3

Join your neighbors on Tuesday Aug. 3, 2004 for a block party or other get-together, to help promote crime prevention in your neighborhood. Aug. 3rd is "National Night Out," which is an annual event designed to promote crime awareness and prevention at a neighborhood level. From 6 to 9 PM on Aug. 3rd, you are urged to turn on your porch light, lock your doors, and spend the evening outside with neighbors, police officers, firefighters, and EMS paramedics. This will be a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner together against crime. It is also a wonderful chance to meet the firefighters and/or EMS paramedics who respond in our area. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your neighbors and the public safety personnel who work in our area. Organize a block party now!

If you would like to have a police officer, firefighter, or EMS paramedic attend your neighborhood gathering on Aug. 3, you must send in a registration form to the Austin Police Dept. by **July 2, 2004**. You can obtain a copy of the form by logging on to the APD web site at: www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/ or by contacting Rosie Salinas of APD at 974-4900 (FAX number: 974-6222). Everyone who completes an application will be notified via mail or e-mail before the event with regard to where to pick up a National Night Out information bag. The bag will contain crime prevention information, posters, party invitations, and items for use at the party.

Help fight crime by participating in National Night Out!

BALCONES CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1– December 31, 2004

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____ FAX _____

Enclosed is my \$10 residential dues payment _____

Enclosed is my special donation of \$ _____ to support traffic calming & other projects

What community subjects interest you? _____

Would you be interested in helping to address them?

Mail this form and your check to: Balcones Civic Assn., P. O. Box 26864, Austin, TX 78755-0864