

# NOTICE

## Neighborhood Watch – June 17, 2010

Many of you may have heard about a rash of burglaries that has occurred in the area recently. A number of them have occurred during the day on Manchester Road in Belgrade, but that doesn't mean that they don't occur elsewhere.

While *such incidents are rare in Belgrade*; however, we are not immune from them as evidenced by these recent incidents. *Times are changing and as they do WE MUST change how we respond to them.*

Here are a few simple things that you can practice to improve your security:

- Begin by becoming more aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to any unusual activity around your homes (unknown persons, vehicles, footprints, tire tracks, etc.) AND in around your neighbors' homes. Record license plate number of suspicious vehicles or make a quick note of the description of strangers in the area (just in case something comes up later!)
- When you're home, take some simple precautions, such as, *locking your car doors*. When you leave, *lock your house...this is even a good thing to do when you go to bed at night!*
- Ask neighbors to watch out for suspicious activity if when you are away, or if you live alone! *If you leave your home for more than a day or two, have mail and newspaper delivery stopped!*
- Put timers on your lights and have them turn on and off at differing times of the day when you are away.
- If you don't know the person "down the street" or "next door", stop by and introduce yourself to your neighbor! By knowing who lives nearby you can build trust and relationships that may ultimately help to avoid a break in.
- Rather than buying a safe for your valuables, consider putting them in safe deposit boxes!
- *Many break-ins are due to people looking for drugs*. Only those that need to know, i.e., close family members should have knowledge about the prescription medications you have in your home. Often information that burglars get about what you have or don't have in your house comes from relatives and friends who may innocently pass on information that makes you a "target".

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- The price of security systems have come down dramatically. Some home surveillance systems can be purchased for under \$200. Also, there are companies that provide home surveillance systems that monitor your home for break-ins, fire, carbon monoxide and other issues. While such systems are useful and provide some people some comfort and confidence in their security...there is nothing like having neighbors watching over neighbors that can deter criminal activity...especially if they know about your efforts.
- *Call 624-7076 (Kennebec county Sheriff's Office) or call 911 if you see suspicious activity.*

If you have any questions about "Neighborhood Policing" you can call the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office at 623-3591 or visit their website at:

<http://www.kennebecso.com/services.html#policing>

You can also find out more tips on securing your home and neighborhood by going to:

<http://homesecurity.lifetips.com/cat/66072/neighborhood-watch/index.html>