



# Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 4: Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2009



Sheriff J. Grayson Robinson

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Protecting Your Home Inside and Out
- CERT Training
- 2009 Youth Academy
- Tip-A-Cop



## Protection Your Home Inside and Out

You can help protect your family, home and other possessions by investing a small amount of time and money. Most burglars will spend no longer than sixty seconds trying to break into a home.

When implementing these or other crime prevention tips, always keep your own safety in mind. Do not implement anything which may hinder or prevent your ability to escape dangerous or hazardous situations. Your family should be aware of safety features and know how to quickly overcome them if they need to get out or away in an emergency

### Your House Number

In an emergency, can firefighters, law enforcement or ambulance drivers find your home quickly and easily? Place permanent numbers below a source of light that can easily be seen from the street. You can also paint your numbers on the curb to help emergency vehicles find your home.

### Fences

Do you have privacy fence obstructing the view of your back yard? Are your fence cross rails creating easy entry into your back yard? Is your gate secure? By providing concealment, privacy fencing is a disadvantage to home security. You can eliminate this disadvantage by:

- Removing every other slat to allow greater visibility.
- Planting hostile-type plants to cover the outside of the fence, such as roses with large thorns.
- Padlocking your gate so that entry is more difficult
- When building a fence, have the cross rails placed inside your yard and have the slats separated one half inch apart.

### Lighting

Can a prowler, burglar, or vandal hide in the shadows of the night around your home?

One of the best sources of cost effective protection around your home is adequate exterior lighting. Lighting has proven to be one of the best and effective deterrents against crime.

Effective lighting should be:

- Placed to illuminate as many sides of the house as possible.
- Placed under the eaves of the house or shielded with a protective covering to prevent tampering.
- Kept on during all night hours.

An inexpensive timer or photoelectric cell will automatically turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn.

### Landscaping

What about the trees, shrubs and landscaping? Could a potential criminal hide there?

The security of the home depends on the visibility. Your home should maintain its visibility so that neighbors and patrol

*(Continued on pg 2)*

## Protection Your Home Inside and Out continued

cars can watch for illegal activity. Ornamental plant growth should be kept well trimmed.

Especially around doors and windows where a person could hide while breaking into your home.

While planting your landscaping, you might consider discouraging intruders from window areas by planting prickly plants, such as roses, some hollies, pyracantha, etc.

Investing in inexpensive landscaping lighting will not only provide light to hidden areas, it also serves as path lighting for individuals who are visiting and is an attractive landscaping feature.

### Exterior Doors

Can you see who is outside before you open the door? Install a wide-angle viewer (peephole) in the door. This will let you know who is at the door. A 190 degree view peephole is recommended.

Is the door solid core or is it metal? Is it cracking or splitting? How thick is it? Not only your front door, but all of your exterior doors and the door between your house and the garage should be of solid core construction

or heavy gauge metal with a minimum thickness of 1 3/8 inches. A thinner door may give if kicked. If your door is the panel-type. Make sure joints and panels are well glued, not split or rotten.

Are your french or double doors secure? One of the doors must be inactive. You can accomplish this by installing flush bolts at the top and bottom of the door secured into metal strike plates. A deadbolt should be on the active door.

### Sliding Doors

Sliding glass doors are vulnerable to attacks. One way to secure sliding doors is by placing a pin in the top and bottom to keep them from sliding or being pried up and out of the track. Check with your local hardware store for the devices that will best suit your situation.

### Windows

Have you added any locks to your windows? Windows are vulnerable. It is recommended to install secondary locks on all moving windows.

Pinning a window shut reduces the chance of it being pried open. This can be accomplished by drilling a hole at a slightly

downward angle through both the movable and fixed window frames and then placing a pin, nail or eyebolt in the hole. The nail is to be used as a removable sliding pin NOT hammered in! Remember to allow easy removal for safety. Other methods include a tight-fitting dowel in the track of the window or adding commercial thumb-screw locks.



Storm windows also offer extra security by requiring a burglar to go through two panes of glass instead of one. Casement windows are more difficult to secure, but making sure the latch works properly and the "operator" has no excess play helps. Replace worn hardware. The use of key-operated locks and bars on windows is discouraged because of the fire hazard. Be careful, that any method you use to secure

windows does not hinder the escape of family members in an emergency.

### Strike Plates

Your strike plate should have at least three inch wood screws. Better yet install a heavier gauge security strike plate, using four screws. The screws should take you past the frame into the structural 2x4s of the door.



### Hinges

Check around the perimeter of your house and look for any exposed hinges. If your hinges are exposed to the outside, we recommend you install hinge pins on the inside of the hinge or replace them with a security hinge with no-removable hinge pins.

### Keys

Never leave a spare key hidden outside. Criminals will look for the easy way into your home. If you have moved into a new

home it is suggested to change the locks. This is a good time to upgrade to better locks.

### Locks

Do you have the old fashioned lock-in-the-knob type? This type of lock offers you privacy and convenience but not security. In fact, many can be opened by using a credit card or screw-driver. For safety you need a secure lock. A deadbolt lock is recommended with the following features:

- A single cylinder.
- A minimum one inch bolt throw.
- A rotating cylinder guard.
- A five pin tumbler.

- A steel interlocking screw.

Economizing on padlocks will not protect you adequately. Large bolt cutters or pry bars are commonly used to break padlocks. Minimum standards for an exterior pad lock are:

- Case hardened steel, with a 9/32 inch shackle.
- Locking mechanism in both the heel and toe.

### Garages

What about the garage door itself? Is it deteriorating? Does it have windows? How about the garage door opener?

Is the emergency automatic door release cord

difficult to secure. Secure your garage door by utilizing the following tips:

- Remove the knobs or rings at the end of the rope or chain, from the emergency automatic garage door releases.
- Keep the garage door closed and locked at all times.
- Cover windows to prevent people from viewing inside.
- If you have a touch pad for entry into your garage, do not use your address as the code.

- Change the code often and clean off the key pad to keep the pad from becoming dirty and revealing the code.

### Check The Outside of You Home.

Look at your home from the outside. How would a thief find a hiding place? Where would you try to get in if you were locked out? Make sure you know these tips:

- Put away ladders and tools that a burglar could use to break into your home.
- When you travel, make sure your home looks lived in.

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training October 3, 10, 17, 24

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

The CERT course is taught in the community by a trained team of first responders who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course conducted by their state training office for emergency management, or FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations.

Help serve your community and country by joining the Arapahoe Community Emergency Response Team. Classes will be held at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the first four Saturdays in October. Attendees will be involved in hands-on activities and casual attire is suggested. Contact Becky Trayler at 720-874-4186 or [btrayler@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:btrayler@co.arapahoe.co.us) to guarantee your reservation.



## 2009 Youth Academy

### Youth Academy

June 15-20, 2009

The youth academy is every day from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The graduation is on Saturday June 20 at 4:00 p.m.

The academy provides teenagers of our community with an opportunity to explore the responsibilities and challenges of providing public safety services to the citizens of Arapahoe County.

Participants must be 14 to 18 years of age and have the availability of transportation to the training facility. They will spend one week in classroom and field training settings. The training opportunity will provide students with

an overview of the Sheriff's Office, the Criminal Justice System, Emergency Communications Center, and Patrol Operations as well as a variety of activities at the Highlands Ranch Law Enforcement Training Facility.



### Academy Activities Include

- History of Law Enforcement
- Building Tours

- Arrest Control Techniques
- Firearms Demonstrations
- K-9 Demonstration
- Crime Lab
- Investigations
- S.W.A.T.

If you are interested in attending this academy please contact Deputy Brian McKnight at 720-874-3750 or [bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us)



### Evaluations from past students

“Every night in class was a learning experience”

“Every family should have a member attend the academy”

“Absolutely outstanding”

“The Academy far exceeded my expectations in so many ways”

“I just wanted to pass along my thanks to you and your co-workers for the opportunity I had in learning about the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Dept. I looked forward to Tuesday and Thursday nights and really enjoyed all of the demonstrations, interactive activities, discussions, and guest speakers you provided in your classes.”



Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
Community Resource Section

Sergeant Kenneth McKlem Office 720-874-3796

E-Mail [kmcklem@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:kmcklem@co.arapahoe.co.us)

Deputy Brian McKnight Office 720-874-3750

E-Mail [bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us)

Deputy Amir Stephen Office 720-874-3752

E-Mail [astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us)

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Committed to Quality Service With an Emphasis on Integrity,  
Professionalism and Community Spirit*

## Helping out Special Olympics

### Red Robin Tip-A-Cop

This unique event gives law enforcement personnel an opportunity to trade in their handcuffs and badges for an apron and serving tray. Law enforcement act as celebrity waiters, collecting tips to benefit Special Olympics Colorado.



**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2009

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Red Robin Arapahoe and Yosemite

If you have any questions about this event contact Deputy Brian McKnight at 720-874-3750