



Safety Tips

“There is a difference between being paranoid and being prepared.”

- Unknown

A Note from Major Hawkins

Happy Fall, Y'all! If you are anything like me, you are excited about hoodies and bonfires, crisp air and changing leaves, and the approaching festivities of the holiday season. Although 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused us to change the way we do things, some patterns remain the same.

As we enter the colder months of the year, we begin to see our habits change. We may turn on the heat in our homes, wear long sleeves and other cold weather gear, sit around a nice warm fire, and enjoy the coziness fall has to offer. As we adapt to the change in weather, criminals adapt to our patterns of behavior, and take advantage of opportunities.

One of the best ways to keep a neighborhood as safe as possible, is to limit opportunities for criminals. By limiting these opportunities, a community sends the message they are educated, prepared, cautious, and dedicated to the safety and security of their neighborhoods. Criminals pay attention to these things, and are less apt to visit locations where they are unsuccessful. Although some locations are



geographically desirable for criminals, with quick access to highways and several ingress and egress points, there is much that can be done to dissuade these

criminals from frequenting such areas.

Crime can be a complicated phenomenon, and it can be difficult to identify what drives crime in certain areas. In

many areas, and Brentwood is no exception, opportunity drives much of the crime, especially vehicle-related crimes.

As we all know, St. Louis weather offers no mercy in our colder months, and requires us to warm up our vehicles before we drive. There is no greater feeling on a frigid winter morning than getting into a nice, warm car. No one likes to sit inside their car watching their clouds of breath and waiting for the defrost to kick in. Many times, what we see is residents starting their vehicles in the morning, to warm them up, but leaving them unlocked. Every winter, like clockwork, stolen auto numbers climb a bit for this very reason.

We suggest that if someone is going to warm up their vehicle in the morning, they lock it, or invest in automatic start technology. I am often asked, “How do we stop this crime?”



The reality is, stopping crime is an impossibility. Preventing crime, and educating residents,

however, is an attainable goal. *Last month, of 26 thefts from vehicles, 18 of the vehicles were unlocked. Of 4 vehicle thefts, all four were unlocked with keys inside.*

Please help us keep the Brentwood Forest community safe and, as always, stay safe and healthy. ☆