



# Holiday Crime Prevention

**Created by MNPD South Precinct Community Affairs Unit  
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## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS BEFORE & AFTER CHRISTMAS

The holiday season is upon us, and many will be spending time shopping for gifts and attending parties and celebrations, and charities will be collecting much-needed donations.

Festive activities will be in the spotlight, and crime prevention may not, so it is important for Nashvillians to ensure they are doing what they can to prevent crime.

### Keeping your car safe from break-ins and thefts

- Park your car in secured lots when possible, or lots that are well-lit and located in heavily traveled areas. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Keep valuables and gifts out of sight in the trunk, covered, or hidden. Do not leave them in the vehicle for long periods of time. Even small change (coins) left visible may be enough to entice a criminal to break a car window.
- Consider leaving expensive items at home unless they are truly needed, or take them with you when you leave your car.
- Remove windshield mounted equipment such as GPS units, radar detectors, etc. before exiting vehicle. If necessary, wipe the spot left behind from the suction cup.
- **NEVER leave your key in the car, and NEVER EVER, EVER, EVER, leave it running and unsecure.** (Examples: cold weather start warm ups, gas station visits, running into a store, etc.) This also goes for those whom assume “*No one will take my car because my child is inside.*” According to National Insurance Crime Bureau, from 2013 to 2018, motor vehicle theft with keys left inside increased 88% across the U.S.
- Have your key/fob in hand when approaching your vehicle so you’re not fumbling for them. Take a quick peek inside your vehicle prior to entering it. After entering, ensure your doors are locked (and windows on child-lock) once everyone is inside to avoid unwanted visitors from entering your vehicle. If a stranger approaches while you are in the car, honk your horn if you need to attract attention.
- Deter would-be thieves by using alarms and anti-theft devices.
- Valet parking attendants, car wash attendants, automotive repairs attendants, etc. should only be given the ignition or valet key/fob to park your car.
- Keep car registrations, insurance papers, and other identifiable personal information on your person. Do not store these documents in your vehicle unless secured. The law requires that the vehicle operator have these documents in their possession when operating the motor vehicle. NEVER leave your title in the car.
- Do you know your license plate number? Take a photo of your vehicle with the tag number visible with your phone in case you need to know it, along with insurance card.
- Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or your neighborhood by calling police at (615) 862-8600.





## Talking to youth about “Stranger Danger”

- Tell your child that anyone your child doesn't know – is a stranger. Ask them what they think a stranger looks like and then correct any misperceptions.
- Teach kids don't talk to or take anything from strangers
- Teach kids to ask store clerks or mall security if they become separated from you. If not available, tell your children that if they are lost or are feeling unsafe – find a mom with kids.
- Never leave kids alone in the car or make unaccompanied trips to a public restroom.
- If you have a cell phone, ensure your kids have the phone number handy to reach you, and they know where they can go to access a phone (stores, info-desk, security and pay-phones).
- If dropping youth off to shop on their own, establish a meeting place inside the establishment for pick-up (not in the parking lot or at doorways)
- For younger ages, use a safety or code word. If you send someone to pick up your child – they should know the code word. If the person doesn't know the code word – your children shouldn't go with them. No matter what. If your children are at a friend's house and something is making them feel unsafe, they can call you and use the code word. If you are in public and there is a safety threat – you can use the word to warn your children to exit quickly or get down.
- Teach kids that if a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If they are in a store, tell them to knock things off the shelf. Knocking things over will get the attention of more people who will then take a closer look at what is going on. If someone is dragging you away, scream, “this is not my dad,” “this is not my mom”, or “leave me alone! I don't know you!”.
- Trust your instincts, if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately. Tell your children that if they are being followed or chased via car start running in the opposite direction of the car. This can buy them some time as the car turns around.
- Don't make it easy for a stranger by plastering your children's names all over their bodies. When strangers know your child's name – your child is much more likely to trust them.
- Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or your neighborhood by calling police at (615) 862-8600.



## Being a safe driver on the road

- Obey all traffic signals
- Be aware of what other drivers around you are doing, and expect the unexpected. Assume other motorists will do something crazy, and always be prepared to avoid it.
- Reduce speed and exercise caution when driving in inclement weather
- Know your route, and have an alternate one planned in the case of unforeseen circumstances.
- Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times – no multi-tasking. Pull over to answer your phone, or tend to other distracting events such as pets/kids, eating, reading a map, etc. Remember texting while driving is unlawful in Tennessee.
- For trips, make a safe driving plan by building time into your trip schedule to stop for food, rest breaks, phone calls or other business.
- Get in the habit of regularly checking weather reports on TV or online so you can prepare for bad weather. On severe weather days, schools and workplaces might close or delay opening. Consider staying at home if you don't need to be on the road.
- Keep an emergency kit in the trunk of your car – including blankets, a first aid kit and jumper cables. See sidebar for items for a kit.
- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged and that your car always has a full tank of gas
- Secure cargo before moving that may move around while the vehicle is in motion. Don't attempt to retrieve items that fall to the floor while the vehicle is in motion.
- Avoid driving when you're tired. Be aware that some medications cause drowsiness and make operating a vehicle very dangerous.
- Do not drink & drive. A DUI arrest can lead to expensive consequences, including spending time in jail, a suspended driver's license and fines. If you hit and/or kill someone while you are driving impaired, the consequences are even worse. It's also illegal to have an open container of alcohol in your car. If you're transporting alcoholic beverages, they should be sealed and in the trunk.

### 15 Must-Have Winter Emergency Car Kit Items

- |                              |                                   |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ice scraper or snow brush | 6. Flares or reflective triangles | 11. Blankets and hand warmers             |
| 2. Windshield washer fluid   | 7. Flashlight and batteries       | 12. Bottled water & snacks                |
| 3. Foldable shovel           | 8. Tow rope                       | 13. Small radio with batteries            |
| 4. Sand, salt, or cat litter | 9. Cell phone and charger         | 14. Extra hats, socks, gloves/<br>mittens |
| 5. Jumper cables             | 10. First-aid kit                 | 15. Small broom                           |



## Shopping online

- Type the store's URL directly in your browser rather than browse to online retailers through a search engine where you may encounter malicious links. Beware of misspellings or sites using a different top-level domain (.net instead of .com, for example)—those are the oldest tricks in the book. Yes, the sales on these sites might look enticing, but that's how they trick you into giving up your info.
- Use a different password for each site you must sign in for and don't let the browser store passwords for you.
- Always look for the **https** prefix in the URL and the padlock icon in the browser's status bar. (If you shop at an online retailer that uses SSL encryption, make sure the address bar turns green as a signal that the page is secure.) Never, ever give anyone your credit card over email. Ever.
- Use a credit card rather than a debit card online so you can stop payments quickly in the event of a problem.
- Don't wait for your bill to come at the end of the month. Go online regularly during the holiday season and look at electronic statements for your credit card, debit card, and checking accounts. Make sure you don't see any fraudulent charges, even originating from sites like PayPal. (After all, there's more than one way to get to your money.)
- If you do see something wrong, pick up the phone to address the matter quickly. In the case of credit cards, pay the bill only once you know all your charges are accurate. You have 30 days to notify the bank or card issuer of problems, however; after that, you might be liable for the charges anyway.
- Be cautious with e-mails claiming to be shipping confirmation or package alerts that force you to open a file attachment. Delete any message that claims to provide tracking information but doesn't include a tracking number.

### Avoid Porch Theft: Tips to Protect Your Packages

1. Ask Your Neighbors to Grab Your Packages
1. Have Packages Delivered to Work
2. Leave Specific Drop-off Instructions
3. Use a Smart Lock
5. Install Security/doorbell Cameras
6. Set Up Notifications to Track Your Packages
7. Require a Signature on Delivery
8. Reschedule Delivery or Ask for a Package Hold When on Vacation
9. Get a P.O. Box as Your Local Post Office or arrange delivery at a delivery service (UPS Store, FedEx Office, etc.)



## Identifying fraudulent scams

- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be wary of anyone requesting payment via prepaid credit cards or gift cards.
- Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
- If it's free, why are they asking me to pay? Question fees you need to pay to redeem a prize or gift. Free is free. If you have to pay, it's a purchase — not a prize or a gift.
- If making a purchase online or through classified ads, arrange to meet at a neutral, public location and do not go alone. Preferably, a location you personally know has video. You don't know who is on the other side of the transaction.
- You have the right to check out any caller by requesting written information, a call back number, references and time to think over the offer.
- Do some research online from a consumer protection agency or state Attorney General's office before you agree to send money. Better yet, Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at [ftc.gov/scams](https://ftc.gov/scams).
- Do not feel pressure to donate right away – ask for information on how you can donate at a later time.
- Report any caller who is rude or abusive, even if you already sent them money. They'll want more. Call 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint).
- If you get a robocall, hang up the phone. Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other key to take your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.
- Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges you don't recognize.
- Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.



## **Preventing crime during a hotel /motel stay**

- Before your trip, copy all credit cards, airline tickets, passports and important documents, front and back. Jewelry and luggage and all valuables should be photographed prior to trip.
- Sometimes it helps when traveling alone, that you select a hotel in a well-populated location. Knowing where and how to get to and from your hotel may be your first step to comfort.
- Typically, rooms located on the upper floors are considered safer from thieves but not necessarily for fires. A rule of thumb for fires is to consider not going above the 5th floor. Ground level floors have easier access for thieves to break into and run, so these are not always the best.
- When checking into your room, be sure to notice the location of the stairwells in case of emergency.
- Check that all of your baggage arrives to your room. Look for the in room safe to store your valuables. However, hotel safes provide only a minimum level of security for your valuables and are not recommended for things of great value, importance, or one-of-a-kind items. If one is not available, talk to the hotel concierge. Hotels usually have a more secure safes in the office. If you do use the safe, make a note and leave it in your luggage to remind you to retrieve the items before you check out. Do not store your cash and jewelry in your luggage or in the dressers. Thieves know these tricks and will look there first.
- When unpacking, it helps if you place your belongings in the closet and dresser. By arranging your clothing you will be able to notice if something goes missing. If something is missing, notify the hotel immediately. Be sure to note the date and time when last seen.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards or car keys in the room. Take them with you. Also, when you leave your hotel in your car, do not display your parking pass after you leave the property. Store it away in the glove compartment.
- Also use all locks available to secure the room. When you have retired to the room, use the peephole to see if someone comes to the door instead of opening the door. The sliding latch is also a good way to limit access from the outside to the interior of your room. If your door does not self- lock, notify the front desk. The best locks should be a deadbolt type with a one inch throw bolt.
- All windows and outside doors are checked to insure they lock and operate properly and be sure to also keep all windows locked and secured.
- The Do Not Disturb sign not only provides quiet slumber, but can be a good deterrent to would be robbers... believing that you are in the room. Use these when you leave.



## Keeping your home safe from break-ins

- Make sure all doors and windows have secondary locks (window pins, deadbolts, dowels, etc.) and use them!
- Locks and alarms can't prevent a burglary unless they're in use. Establish a routine for "closing up shop," locking doors and windows, setting up alarms.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed so they do not conceal doors and windows. Remember, overgrown foliage can provide a hiding place for criminals.
- Keep any ladders used for putting lights up away from the home so criminals cannot use them to climb up to your windows.
- Do not display gifts in a window or doorway. If you celebrate Christmas, the tree will certainly attract a burglar's attention, so resist gathering your gifts under its branches until Christmas morning.
- Monitored home alarm systems are the ultimate burglar deterrents. Most thieves look for the path of least resistance and a home protected by a security system is the exact opposite. With today's technology, motion detectors which in turn, turn on lights & video surveillance BEFORE the act is the best in deterring would be burglars.
- If you will be away long hours, purchase an automatic timer for your lights, television or stereo. However, leaving the lights on all day long maybe a cue that no one's home.
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Look for clues that that people may be casing your neighborhood. A strange kid ringing doorbells and saying, "Can I speak to Charlie" may be checking to see if anyone is home. Also, be suspicious if you see someone sitting for long periods in a parked car.
- Don't keep valuables in your bedroom. Burglars normally make a beeline for the bedroom because they know people tend to keep cash and jewelry there. Keep your valuables in an unlikely place, but not in the linen closet or the freezer (too common).
- Establish that you can count on your neighbors and that they can count on you to report suspicious activities to the police. Nothing beats a cautious neighbor, ready to call 911, for burglary protection.
- Dogs can be a good deterrent - burglars will generally avoid a house with a dog. But they aren't foolproof -- many dogs often tend to be too friendly with strangers.
- Get involved in our Neighborhood Watch program.





## Securing your home before you go away

- Traveling to see family and friends is part of what makes the holidays great...but you may want to keep the details off Facebook, Twitter, etc. until you return. Even if you think your posts are secure, there's a chance the wrong person might read about your trip and decide to take advantage of your absence. You'll have plenty of time to post photos and tell friends about your trip AFTER you're back home.
- Update or create an Record of Valuable Property in your residence. A copy of a Record of Valuable Property is available at the MNPD's website.
- Don't leave descriptive telephone answering machine/voice mail messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's...we're away skiing for the Christmas holidays...please leave a message." Burglars love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.
- If you're leaving town, purchase an automatic timer for your lights, television or stereo. However, leaving the lights on all day long maybe a cue that no one's home.
- Have a trusted neighbor/friend/family member check on your home daily, collect your mail & possibly stay inside your home for a while.
- Notify the post office to hold your mail. This can be now done online.
- If you're leaving a vehicle outside your house, have someone move its position periodically, to make it appear as if it is being used. Remove any garage door opener in the vehicle or disable the remote from inside the garage.
- Lock-up tools, BBQs and ladders and make sure they are out of sight; set and test your timers; lock and check doors and windows; and leave shades and blinds in normal positions.
- Turn off the telephone ringer so no one knows your home is empty. Or, if feasible, forward your calls to your cell phone.
- Read your home insurance policy to find out how often your home needs to be checked in order to maintain your coverage.
- Establish communications that you can count on your neighbors to report suspicious activities to the police. Nothing beats a cautious neighbor, ready to call 911, for burglary protection. Let the neighbors know if you are expecting packages, workers, etc. while you away. Note: Have them call police first, then you. Cancelling a call is far better than watching the suspect drive or walk off with your property.



## Reporting suspicious behavior to police

- Look for clues that that people may be casing your neighborhood:
  - Someone sitting for long periods in a parked car.
  - Unusual noises, including screaming, sounds of fighting, breaking glass
  - People peering into parked vehicles that are not their own
  - People who change their behavior when they notice they have been seenIf it's suspicious to you, it's worth reporting it to Police.

### **Do not attempt to intervene in the activity !**

- When reporting suspicious behavior, please be prepared to report the following:
    - **Where are you?** Take a quick look around to make sure you know where you are. Actual addresses are better than intersections. Definitely don't say "I'm at McDonald's on Nolensville Pike" because there are three of them and we won't know which one.
    - **What just happened?** Think about what you are trying to report and be ready to say, "I'm reporting a suspicious activity of a ..."
    - **What information do I need to tell the call taker?** Take a second to describe the people, their clothing, or vehicles you saw.
  - From this point on, let the call taker control the call and ask questions. The 911 call takers have a system and format they follow in order to get the most accurate information from you to send to the dispatchers. Allow them to follow their format and the call will go much quicker. If a question is asked for which you do not have an answer, it's okay to say, "I don't know." Call takers may ask you if you wish to have contact with an officer. Saying "yes" can be a great help to investigating officers, enabling them to briefly call you or contact you in person to gain or confirm valuable details about a possible suspect in a crime. Please stay on the line with call takers until they tell you they have what they need and say it's okay to hang up.
    - If you see any suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call police at **615-862-8600. Call 911 for a crime in progress.**
    - You may submit an anonymous crime tip to Crime Stoppers:
      - TALK: 615-74-CRIME (742-7463);
      - VIA WEB: <http://www.nashvillecrimestoppers.com/>
- TEXT: Text the word "CASH", then your message to CRIMES (274637). So the phone number that you text to is 274637. Then the first word you put in is CASH. After that word put in your message to Crime Stoppers.



## Shopping safely

- If you shop at several stores in one day, lock your purchased packages in the trunk of your car. If your vehicle has no trunk, consider taking the packages home and return to shop. If practical, have your purchase(s) delivered. Covering the package(s) up may help, but is not the best solution.
- Never overload yourself with packages. You make yourself an easy target for a criminal to grab from you and get away.
- If you must shop after dark always have a friend or relative with you.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information
- Never carry or flash large sums of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Women should always carry purses close to their body with the purse flap against them. Even when you are grocery shopping !!! Men should carry their wallets in an inside jacket or front pocket, not a back trouser pocket, especially in crowded areas.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. During this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money and/or belongings or your young children.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- If you go to an automatic teller machine (ATM) for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well lit and in a safe location. Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you & do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.
- Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out
- If you are purchasing toys for small children, be sure that they are safe. You will be surprised what a small child can swallow or what can injure them.
- When making donations to canvassers for charities, ask for legitimate identification – only donate to registered charities. Do not feel pressure to donate right away – ask for information on how you can donate at a later time.



## Holiday parties

- Holiday parties often involve alcohol, and while you want everybody to enjoy themselves, it's also important to make sure they are being responsible.
- Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages. Eating high protein foods that will stay in your stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol into your system. Remember only time will eliminate the alcohol from your body.
- If you are hosting a party, keeping an eye out for anyone who may be drinking too much, and either providing a place to stay or a means to get home with a designated driver.
- Drinking on an empty stomach can cause a person to become intoxicated faster. Offering food along with drinks may help prevent guests from over-indulging on alcohol alone.
- While many guests may want to enjoy the holidays with an alcoholic drink, offer non-alcoholic drinks as an option. In addition to soft drinks, consider serving up some “mocktails” to give your non-drinking guests some celebration-worthy options.
- If possible, hire a bartender for the night. A designated server can keep an eye on your guests’ alcohol consumption and cut off people who have reached their limit.
- Tennessee does impose criminal liability on social hosts who provide alcohol to minors under age 21, or who allow minors to drink on their property. Don’t guess, card them.
- If someone should not be driving and they insist on going home, call a cab for them instead of allowing them to take the risk of driving home.
- Do not leave your drink unattended when at parties or other social events, to avoid the risk of someone altering it.
- If possible, designated drivers should try to stay off the road between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m., when drunk driving accidents are most likely, according to research from the U.S. Department of Transportation. And if the weather is bad, consider revising your plans so you won't have to travel on icy or snowy roads. With a little foresight and by taking precautions, you can enjoy your holiday season and stay safe as well.
- Don’t be afraid to intervene if someone attempts to get behind the wheel while drunk. Call a cab on their behalf, take away their keys, or call the police for assistance.

For gatherings of any type, always follow  
CDC/Metro Public Health guidelines.  
Get all COVID information online at:  
[www.asafenashville.org/](http://www.asafenashville.org/) or  
[covid19.nashville.gov](http://covid19.nashville.gov)



## Recognizing domestic violence and taking action

- The holidays are often thought of as the best time of the year. It is a time for loved ones, celebration, and joy. However, for victims of domestic violence, the holidays can be a very dark and scary time. Unrealistic expectations, financial pressures, and the increased consumption of alcohol can raise stress levels, which can contribute to incidents of domestic violence. It is important for people seek help before they get to that point.
- Domestic violence can be seen through various avenues for example in the workplace, neighbors, etc. It takes a community to address domestic violence and it is important to call for help.
- If you suspect someone in your life is the victim of an abusive partner, watch for red flags, **such as possessiveness, rigid gender roles, and overt control of deliberately humiliating one's partner in front of others.** To support a victim, friends and family members should be non-judgmental and supportive. "Don't tell them what they need to do. Don't badmouth the abuser. It's also important to remember that friends and family should take precautions to make sure they remain safe. Sometimes when word gets back to the abuser that a friend or family member is offering advice or asking questions about the abuse, they could be putting themselves in danger."
- If you're currently with an abusive partner, reach out to a trained domestic violence advocate—contact our **Counseling Section in the MNP Domestic Violence Division at (615) 880-3000.** Calling police for help does not mean charges will be laid automatically, our goal is public safety and to assist families in getting the help they need. And, remember, you don't need to figure out an escape plan right away—you can simply call to talk. If you can't call safely from home, call from a trusted friend's house, your doctor's office or a public library.
- If you find that you are in a domestic violence situation, it is important to have a safety kit in case you have to exit a dangerous situation quickly. This kit should be hidden in a safe place and should include emergency numbers, a bag of clothing and toiletries, important documents such as birth certificates and a driver's license, medication, prescriptions, car keys, house keys, and cash.
- There is help for persistent stress, worry, anxiety, depression, or overall negativity during the holidays. Finding the right therapist where you can have a safe place to get support and empowerment during difficult times can be helpful. Therapy can help with stress management, mood and relationships, and confidence and empowerment.

SUPPORT IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY (615) 880-3000

Call Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and ask to speak with a counselor.

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.nvdc.org/): 1-800-799-7233

MNP Headquarters  
Domestic Violence Division - 102  
600 Murfreesboro Pike



## AFTER CHRISTMAS TIPS

- Add new items to your home inventory. Many electronics (TV's computers, etc.) that have serial numbers lists the model number/serial number somewhere on the box. Make sure you cut it off and save it for your inventory file. Take photos or video of all items of value, especially jewelry, in your home and list each item's make, model, serial number and other information. For items without model or serial numbers, like jewelry, lists value, location and date of purchase.
- Engrave new items to help identify them in the event they are stolen. It is important to make sure you have unique identifiers on your property so that if lost or stolen they can be identified by the police. In many cases the cell phones items may have IMEI/Serial numbers to identify them but most non-technical items don't. In this scenario, you can use a variety of markers such as UV Pens, or stickers. The South Precinct has a UV pen type "Mark It" program (see below). DO NOT USE your Social Security number as identification.
- Don't advertise expensive toys, electronics, or other gifts received by the boxes left for garbage collections. Properly dispose of gift packaging and boxes. Do not leave these outside for all to see, as this will advertise the contents of your home to thieves. Compress large boxes and place them in non see through garbage bags for pick-up or take directly to Public Works Convenience Centers. The convenience center within the South Precinct is located at 3254 Ezell Pike (behind the South Precinct) The hours are Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are closed on Metro Holidays. Other convenience centers and information on fees, and items that can be accepted can be found on the [Metro Public Works website](#).

### ***Mark It Program***



*The South Precinct has begun a burglary prevention program called " Mark It ". Mark It is modeled after a nationally recognized program in which citizens make an inventory of their property and permanently mark their valuables with an identification number using an ultraviolet pen. Individually created numbers unique to the resident can be used on a Tennessee Driver's License or ID number (NOT Social security number). Each participant gets two window decals for their residence. If enough residents, such as a Neighborhood Watch Group, in an area participate a road sign warning thieves of the program is placed in the neighborhood. Similar programs around the country have been highly successful in reducing residential burglaries.*



*This program is designed to:*

- *Discourage the activities of burglars and thieves by marking your possessions and placing decals on your windows.*
- *Aid in the return of lost or stolen property to the owner.*
- *Discourage burglars from fencing stolen property.*
- *Assist in apprehending and convicting criminals caught with marked property.*

***This program is for the residents of the South Precinct ONLY at this time. If have questions or would like more information about the program, please contact the Lieutenant John Batty at [john.batty@nashville.gov](mailto:john.batty@nashville.gov)***