

Crime Analysis Summary for the period of March 18, 2011 through March 24, 2011

#### BUNKER HILL

On 03-22-11 at 12:00 p.m., an officer took a report of a construction theft in the 200 block of Plantation.

#### HUNTERS CREEK

On 03-20-11 at 5:00 p.m., an officer took a telephone harassment report in the 10900 block of Kirwick.

#### PINEY POINT

On 03-22-11 at 9:00 a.m., an officer took a report of an on line solicitation of a minor in the 400 block of Gingham. The case is currently under investigation.

#### CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

With spring breaks in progress and the summer vacation season fast approaching this week's column will deal with security tips that will help to keep your home safe while you are traveling.

Many times when people are away from home they leave telltale signs that criminals use to target their home, such as overflowing mailboxes, several days' worth of newspapers in the yard and unusual or no exterior and interior lighting. Following the below listed recommendations will help to keep your home safe while you are away.

Advise your neighbors that you will be gone and ask them to keep an eye on your home.

Ask a neighbor, or relative/friend who lives nearby to pick up your mail and newspapers on a daily basis while you are away. This will prevent the overflowing mailbox mentioned earlier. This is also a much better option than having your mail and newspapers held because it restricts the number of people who know you are away.

Keep blinds and drapes closed over all exterior windows so that unauthorized persons cannot look into your house.

Porch lights that are on in the daytime or a totally dark house in early evening hours are clues that residents are away, especially if this is a pattern for several days. To keep this from cluing criminals to your absence, use timers on interior lights and possibly a radio, to have them come on and go off in such a manner as to make it appear you are home in the evening. Photoelectric cells in outside lights will cause them to go on and off automatically at dusk and dawn so as not to advertise your absence and also provide better nighttime security for your home.

If at all possible DO NOT leave vehicles parked in a driveway that are visible from the street. The same vehicle parked in the same spot for several days in a row is a sure sign that the residents are away from home. If you must leave vehicles parked outside be sure and lock them and set their alarm system and remove all visible valuable items from inside of the vehicle before leaving. It is also recommended that you not leave the keys to vehicles left at home in the house while you are gone.

Notify the police department when you will be gone for several days so that our patrol officers can keep a closer watch on your home. To do this, call the department at 713-365-3700 before you leave and the dispatcher will take the necessary information so that your home can be put on the house watch list.

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