

## POTENTIAL BREAK INS – BE ON THE ALERT!

Although Jonathan's Landing is fortunate to have virtually no crime (especially when compared to surrounding communities), we are not immune. Recently, the Palm Beach Gardens police announced that a group that operated a number of years ago (The Dinner Set Gang) appears to again be active in the area and they are breaking into homes. Those planning to break into residences carefully watch the habits of the occupants. They will often "trip" an alarm just to see how long it takes for security and/or police to arrive. They look into windows to see the alarm keypad to determine whether it is set or not set. Homes with poor exterior lighting, privacy walls around bathroom windows, homes with high shrubs, etc. are all targets as it allows access without being easily seen.

We need the help of the residents now more than ever in watching for suspicious activity. If you see someone "hanging around" (including those fishing, bicycling, sitting, walking, etc.) or if the same person has been by a number of times, they could be looking for an opportunity to break in to a home and you should call Security immediately.

Here are some things residents can address to make their home safer and things they should watch for:

1. Watch for wood, blocks or tile placed or stacked near walls or fences as it allows easy access over a wall or fence.
2. Watch for individuals hiding or just hanging around residences. This includes those fishing!
3. Watch for vehicles at a residence where you know the owner is away.
4. Watch for people carrying items such as small appliances, laptop computers, televisions, etc out of a house, especially during the day.
5. Do not leave personal property in view in your vehicle and be sure to lock your car doors.
6. Set your alarm at your residence.
7. Be sure you have adequate exterior lights at your home and turn them on at night or put them on photocells to come on automatically.
8. Use timers on lights inside your home and have someone change the times periodically. These burglars are smart and if they see the bedroom light come on at 6:00 pm every night they will figure out the home is empty.
9. Trim bushes obstructing windows. If you have a privacy wall outside a bathroom or bedroom window, be sure the area is lit at night.
10. Do not hide valuables in the master closet (or in pockets), sock or underwear drawer or bathroom cabinets – these are the first places checked!
11. If in doubt – call Security! We would rather check 'nothing' than to have one break in! Whatever you do, don't ever, ever confront a burglar or suspicious person yourself!