



## **Vacation Crime Prevention**

School is almost over and it is that long awaited vacation time for many. Unfortunately, property crime traditionally increases during the summer months. You can take a few simple steps to minimize your chance of returning from a fun vacation only to discover that you have been a crime victim.

Don't advertise that you are leaving. With the current popularity of social networks such as Facebook, I often see people advertising that they are leaving town and posting pictures of the beautiful places they are in. Please wait until you return to post those pictures and to say where you have been. People who you don't know might have access to that information.

Make your residence look like you are home. Have a trusted neighbor collect your newspapers and mail daily. Cut the grass right before you leave. Leave a light or a television on. Better yet, get a light switch timer and have a living room light come on after dark until later in the evening. Burglars scour neighborhoods looking for no vehicles or other signs that you are not home. Advise that trusted neighbor that you are leaving and instruct them to call 911 if they see anything suspicious around your home. Many times, burglars appear to be repairmen or someone who belongs in your driveway.

Just a few simple steps can help us protect you and your property.

**"Protecting and Serving the citizens of St. Charles Parish."**

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