

WINTER 2015



Virg Bernero, Mayor

WINTER CRIME PREVENTION



Mike Yankowski, Chief

HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TOP 10 WISH LIST

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lansing Ice & Snow Ordinance
- Winter Safety Tips
- Lock it or Lose It
- Operation Identification



1. Lock your windows and doors before you leave the house.
2. Do NOT put gifts in view of your windows.
3. If you're going out of town, Use an automatic timer for your home's lights.
4. Record the serial numbers of the expensive items you purchase along with other expensive items in your home.
5. Lock your car, even if you're only gone for a few minutes.
6. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for your purchases with a debit or credit card.
7. Notify issuers immediately if your credit or debit card is lost or stolen
8. Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you — especially in parking lots.
9. Don't advertise the new items you have in your home. Flatten empty boxes and place them in a trash receptacle.
10. Be a "Nosy Neighbor." Watch for suspicious activity in your neighborhood and call the police immediately if you observe suspicious activity.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

'TIS THE SEASON	2
TIPS TO SECURE YOUR HOME	2
LOCK IT OR LOSE IT	2
ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3
WINTER SAFETY TIPS	3
HELP PROTECT OUR KIDS	3
WHAT IS "OPERATION IDENTIFICATION"?	4
LANSING SNOW & ICE ORDINANCE	4

ENJOY THE FESTIVE SEASON RESPONSIBLY!

- * If you're out partying, clubbing, or pubbing over the festive period, remember thieves operate in crowded areas so keep your valuables safe.
- * If you go out with friends, make sure you come home together — never leave anyone behind.
- * **Think! Don't drink and drive!**
- * If using a taxi make sure they are a genuine taxi and if you book a mini cab make sure that's the cab you booked before getting in, by first asking who the cab is for.
- * Drink responsibly and never accept a drink from a stranger or leave a drink unattended.
- * If you are walking home from a night out, do so in groups and stay in busy, well-lit areas.



'TIS THE SEASON...!!

- * **Never** give your credit card number over the phone to anyone when you did not initiate the call. Ensure you are dealing with a reputable company when ordering over the phone.
- * If you are shopping online, be sure to use a secure browser; keep your personal information private and shop with companies you **know** are reputable.
- * **DO NOT** give out your Social Security Number, e-mail address, phone number, or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they are collecting it and how they will use it. *Save all transaction information, including e-mails and any records of any phone conversations.*
- * Don't "flash" large amounts of money in public. You never know who is watching! Also, spread your money around in different pockets. This way a pickpocket can't clean you out in one fell swoop.
- * If you go to an ATM, try to go during the daylight hours. If you *must* go at night, pick a machine that is well-lit and visible to passing traffic,



By using a little planning and some good common sense, most holiday crimes can be avoided.

TIPS TO INCREASE THE SECURITY OF YOUR HOME

- Remember, whether you are leaving the house to go shopping, or out for an evening of parties, **LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS!** Presents displayed around your tree can be a pretty sight, but it can also be quite tempting for burglars. It is better to scatter the gifts around the house, in closets or cupboards, where they cannot be easily seen.
- If you choose to have a live tree, ensure it is always properly watered. **Never** leave tree lights on when no one is home.
- When leaving on vacation, please contact the [Lansing Police Department](http://www.lansingpolice.org) at 517-483-4469 to arrange for a "Vacation House Check"!



The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (MCL 257.676) prohibits "leaving a vehicle unattended on any street or any other place without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition and removing the ignition key. This provision does not apply to a vehicle that was manufactured with an ignition system that does not have a key and that is incapable of being locked."



LOCK IT... OR LOSE IT!



- ◆ **REMOVE** your valuables and **LOCK** your vehicle
- ◆ Half of all vehicle thefts are a result of driver error, like leaving the keys in the ignition or leaving doors **unlocked**.
- ◆ In the U.S., a motor vehicle is stolen every 44 Seconds, totaling \$4.3 billion in total value of cars.
- ◆ Only about half of vehicles stolen are recovered.



ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By getting to know your neighbors and forming connections, you make your community safer. You do this by learning to recognize what is normal and what is not. This can help you in protecting your property and family as well as that of your neighbors. Watch groups are also great social gatherings and may be used to form networks to help each other with home improvement projects which can raise property values. This is also a great forum to discuss concerns and share ideas. Close friendships have

been formed between members of a watch program.

If you would like to learn more about how to improve your community with Neighborhood Watch, contact the Lansing Police Department's Community Services Officer at 517-483-4469 or e-mail lpdcso@lansingmi.gov. The Community Service Officer can guide you on how to organize an initial meeting to introduce and begin organizing a program with your neighbors.



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Driving Safety: If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it is clear of snow before you start the car. In icy and snowy conditions, drive slowly, allow plenty of stopping time, and pay attention to the road and other drivers. If you get stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, at a safe distance away. Make sure snow isn't blocking the exhaust pipe, and stay in the vehicle with a window open slightly to allow fresh air

Vehicle Safety: Be prepared. Keep extra blankets, flashlights, ice scraper, warning devices (e.g. flares, reflectors), jumper cables, first aid kit, snow shovel and rock salt or sand, bottled water and snacks in your vehicle. Always have a cell phone with you



Home Safety:

Be prepared. Have a week's worth of food, drinking water, medicine and prescription drugs, pet food, and safety supplies on hand. Do not leave lit candles unattended. Keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow each day. If you are unable to remove it, contact a willing neighbor or a snow removal business to do it for you. For those going away this season, snow left on the driveway and sidewalk for a period of time can be a dead giveaway that you aren't home, so arrange for it to be cleared every day.



HELP PROTECT OUR KIDS



We all know winter break is coming up fast for school aged children. Help keep our kids safe by adhering to the Curfew Law. This helps reduce children becoming victims of crimes, in addition to the **opportunity for children to commit crimes.**

Have your child observe the **City of Lansing Curfew Hours (Ordinance 650.01)**. *No person as listed below shall be upon any public street, highway, alley, park, vacant lot, or other*

public place between the following hours:

- Under 12 years old:**
10:00pm—6:00am
- 13 - 16 years old:**
12:00am—6:00am



We must all join together to look out for our children and our neighborhoods! Work with parents to monitor curfew hours in your neighborhood and call **911** to report any youth disturbances after curfew.



WHAT IS "OPERATION IDENTIFICATION"?



- ✦ Nationally recognized citizen's burglary prevention program in use for over 30 years.
- ✦ Allows law enforcement to detect, identify, and return stolen or lost property to its rightful owner.
- ✦ Operation ID involves marking or engraving property with an identifying number and displaying a window decal on your property.
- ✦ Mark property with identifying mark, preferably your state abbreviation followed by Driver's License number.
- ✦ Inventory the marked property on a form with descriptions including brand, model and serial numbers.
- ✦ Display Operation ID decals on house windows.

Contact 517-483-4469 to get your Operation ID decals

LANSING SNOW & ICE ORDINANCE (1020.06)

Public notice of the amended Snow and Ice Ordinance for the City of Lansing was Posted on December 3, 2014. The amended ordinance is now in effect. The major points of the amended Snow & Ice Ordinance are as follows:

-  Allowing snow/ice to remain on a public sidewalk adjacent to your home for more than 24 hours remains prohibited. 1020.06(a).
-  Placing snow/ice on a right of way so as to impair vehicular/pedestrian traffic remains prohibited. 1020.06(b).
-  Failing to remove snow/ice from a sidewalk or placing snow/ice in a right of way can result in the following:

- a. Removal of the snow/ice by the City, with the property owner being assessed the City's snow removal cost, including an administrative fee. Failure to pay the assessment within 60 days of receiving notice of the assessment will result in a lien being placed on the property, along with additional administrative fees. 1020.06(c)(1)-(2).
- b. Posting a notice warning that (1) snow/ice removal is from the adjacent public sidewalk is required or (2) prohibiting the placement of snow/ice in the right of way, and that the City may remove the snow/ice and assess the cost of doing so against the property owner, along with an administrative fee.



Police officers and other personnel designated by Public Service may issue municipal civil infraction citations for these violations.

Please be aware of these changes and work with your neighbors to stay in compliance. Some neighborhoods have even developed a "trusted teen" list or have "snow angels" that help those residents that are in need.



Please remember to follow the Lansing Police Department on Facebook and Twitter!

-  www.Facebook.com/lansingpolicedepartment
-  [@LansingPolice](https://twitter.com/LansingPolice)



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