

**THE SANTAQUIN/GENOLA
CRIME PREVENTION
CONNECTION**

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Graduation....already?



Hard to believe, but it's time for graduation - congratulatory events, activities, and parties. For some, their graduation will signify not just the end of high school, but the end of life.

A celebratory occasion can easily spin into a party of alcohol and other dangerous activities. A feeling of being invincible can envelope the new graduate, believing that nothing can ruin their special day.

Before a graduation turns into a story of sorrow, act now and talk with your graduate about their planned celebrations and the events they are going to participate in. Find opportunities, while keeping in the realm of "fun," by offering alternative events that emphasize an alcohol free environment.

While teens seldom like to hear the harsh realities of operating a vehicle under the influence, it's important they realize the potential consequences. Not only does the chance for injury exist, but can also impact their choice of colleges, student financial aid, employment and many other opportunities.

Life Preserving Ideas

- If planning a party at home, set ground rules on alcohol: not only should it be prohibited at the party, but those showing up intoxicated will not be able to participate and their parents will be called.
- Keep the keys! If throwing a party, have everyone turn their keys in to the host (responsible adult) who will distribute them as they leave, after making sure they have no obvious signs that they "slipped" a drink in at the party. Anyone under the influence will have to get a ride home from someone who is sober.
- As exciting as the night is, it's important that there be limits. Even a fully energized graduate is going to run out of steam at some point, so setting a realistic "curfew" for the night is a good idea.
- The reality is that some graduates will participate in parties that do include alcohol and chances are that you (the responsible adult) are not going to be there! Build a relationship with your child that emphasizes forgiveness and responsibility and affirms that the consequences of driving while intoxicated are far more serious than making a simple call for a ride home.



**Want to learn more about the dangers of underage drinking?
Visit the Mothers Against Drunk Driving website at www.madd.org.**

Springtime is Sale Time!

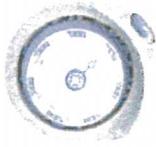


Selling your home can be a positive experience or a difficult situation, depending on why you are selling. Regardless of the reason, the experience can be tainted with even greater loss if you don't take steps to protect your home from thieves.

If your home is unoccupied during the for-sale period, it probably is very obvious to someone intent on getting inside or removing items that are still attached to or in the home. For a burglar, they feel it's a pretty safe bet that an unoccupied home for sale is a perfect nighttime target because no one will be around.

Enlist the assistance of your neighbors! They don't want to see a home in their neighborhood become a haven for crime, so they

Provide them with telephone numbers to contact you or your realtor; ask them to report to us any suspicious activity or crimes and pickup any newspapers or mail that is delivered.



Keep the front window coverings closed so that no one can see inside. Next, put a small radio on a timer, as well as a couple of lights, to simulate that someone is home to hopefully deter criminal activity.

Keep in mind that deterrence begins with the outside of the residence. Putting lights on motion detectors that will illuminate the front, side and rear yards will not only illuminate a burglar but will alert your neighbors that someone is snooping around the house!

Make sure all doors and windows securely close and lock. Remember that realtors and their clients will be visiting your home and may open and close some of the windows and doors. If there is a special "trick" to get that certain door locked, you may want to fix it ahead of time as someone unfamiliar with your home may not have just the touch needed to lock it up!

If the home still has your personal property inside, there are additional considerations that should be taken. While realtors are very responsible in keeping their clients from rummaging through your personal property, it's impossible for them to be with the client every moment they're in the house.

Remove small, valuable, items that can easily be put in a pocket such as jewelry, cash, rare coins and personal electronics. This could also be an opportunity for someone who wants to commit identity theft to grab your personal information. Be sure to remove or lock up any and all files, mail and documents containing personal information. Finally, don't forget that there are people going through your home that now have a very good idea of what is inside. Leaving a variety of items in the home that could entice someone to come back for the purpose of stealing, instead of buying, can turn a home selling experience into a nightmare. Take time before you open your home up to "strangers" to be sure that it's as safe and secure as possible.



Monthly 2do List...What's in or NOT in your car?

It's time for your spring car check-up. We're not talking mechanical, although that's a good idea too, but we're talking about what's in your car! Check to make sure you are prepared for whatever may come your way this spring and throughout the summer by doing a vehicle inventory.



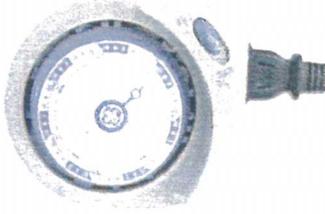
Your well-equipped car should include the following emergency equipment:

- Flashlight
- First-aid kit
- Tools for minor repairs
- Maps (if you are traveling in unfamiliar areas)
- Fire extinguisher
- Traffic control devices such as reflectors, flares or battery operated lights

As for what not to have in your vehicle, that's up to you, but the items that thieves are looking for should be left at home or kept in the trunk. Be sure to remove all loose items that can draw attention. These include duffel bags, backpacks, briefcases, laptop keepers and any other items laying on the seats. Likewise, a cell phone left on the dash or a portable GPS or iPad can all attract crooks so be sure to take them out or place in a concealed, secure part of the vehicle each time you exit.

Being prepared with the right stuff as well as not having the wrong stuff inside your car will help to ensure a safer and more secure spring and summer.

Home Security 101 – Safe and Secure When You're Away



Burglars are always on the prowl for the easiest targets. The most common targets are residences where no one is home, the house is shrouded in darkness and doors or windows are left unlocked. In fact, the burglar's biggest turn-off is to see someone home. Or, for there to even be a CHANCE that someone is home.

Prevention starts with making your home look occupied. The lived-in look begins with lighting. Install exterior lights on motion detectors to deter trespassers or burglars and to alert you and your neighbors that someone may be in your yard. Lighting also needs to happen inside when you are not home. This can easily be accomplished by placing lights on timers.

Some of the overlooked tell-tale signs that your home is unoccupied are:

- Accumulation of newspapers or mail
- Vehicles missing from the driveway which are normally parked there
- Answering machines with "we're on vacation" outgoing messages
- Garbage cans left out after pickup

Increasing your home security also includes:

- Installing and USING deadbolt locks
- Hanging window coverings where appropriate so persons can not see into your home
- Checking windows and making sure that the locks work and the windows cannot be easily lifted out of their tracks

Taking some time not only before leaving on a trip, but every time you leave home will make a difference and help to ensure what you come home to is just how you left it.

Ready for Summer?

It's almost summer and time for fun in the sun! Summer can be a time for enjoying the outdoors locally, traveling to a relative's home or taking a trip to a distant city, state or country. Enjoying your trip is what's most important so follow some basic safety steps to make sure your travels leave you with fond memories instead of problems. Here are some easy-to-implement travel safety steps:

Before you go...

- Go through your home with a fine tooth security comb! Lock up all your doors and windows. Set light timers, notify trusted neighbors and make arrangements for your newspapers and mail to be picked up.
- If you are using mass transportation such as an air carrier, train or even a ship, be sure to have each item of baggage labeled clearly with your contact information.
- Leave the fancy stuff at home!
If you don't need it, don't take it!





Lodging Security...

- Select a lodging option that you believe is in a relatively safe location. If you are not sure of the facility or the surrounding area, check some of the various trip advisors online or call the local chamber of commerce or visitor's bureau and get additional information about the area.
- If you feel the lodging option may not be safe, ask to see the room before you check in and be sure to look for appropriate locks on all doors and windows.
- Don't leave valuables in your room while you are out. Some lodging options provide safes in the room or at the front desk. Take advantage of the safes if you have valuable items you wish to leave behind.
- Lock up! Close and lock all doors and windows and be sure to use the extra security lock provided on most lodging room doors.

Out and About...

- Carry small amounts of cash and only one credit card when out and be sure to keep your wallet in your front pocket. If carrying a purse, loop the straps around your neck.
- Exploring somewhere for the first time? Do your research and find out what the area is like. Your lodging option, the internet or even the local police department may be able to assist you with advice on where to go and not to go.
- Rental cars can be easy to spot and vacationers tend to have plenty of items in the car, making for the perfect target. Do as you would do at home and keep ALL items in the trunk.
- Especially if you are out alone, be cautious with leaving any beverage unattended and always know where it came from. You don't want an "additive" put in your drink that could affect your physical and mental abilities.

Happy Travels!



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