

## Defensive Living

While Hyde Park is not a high crime neighborhood, there are however criminals that will take advantage of our community. The following are things that you can do to minimize the opportunity for criminal activity.

1. **Do not leave anything of value in your car.** Take it in the house or lock it in the trunk. Do not assume that it is safe because your car is parked in your driveway or even in your garage. The single most frequent crime reported in Hyde Park is theft from vehicles. It accounts for the overwhelming majority of all crime in our community.
2. **Lock your car.** Most thieves are opportunists. If they do not see anything of value in your car, they are less likely to break into it to hunt for valuables. Don't forget to remove all power cords that would indicate a device like a GPS might be hidden in the vehicle.
3. **Lock the doors and windows of your house.** Thieves have even been known to enter homes through an unlocked front door while the residents are in the back yard. Don't make it easy for them.
4. **Do not leave items of value on your porch or around your property.** Large items such as porch furniture and grills are not likely to be stolen because of their bulk and the difficulty to carry them off. However, smaller items of value or easily removed items such as bicycles are tempting targets.
5. **Turn your porch light on during hours of darkness.** It will help you and your neighbors be able to see what is going on around your property and the neighborhood.
6. **Install outside lights on a motion detector in the rear of your house.** Be careful of its sensitivity or neighborhood cats and other small animals will continually set it off thereby causing you or your neighbors to ignore it. Also control the light direction so it doesn't disturb your neighbors.
7. **Be observant of your environment.** Call the police if you see anyone or anything that appears suspicious. Do NOT put yourself in danger by confronting someone, call the police emergency number 9-1-1.
8. **Establish a block or street self-protection network.** The police cannot be everywhere all the time. Know your neighbors and alert them (after you call the police), when you see anything suspicious. If someone is in the neighborhood looking for an opportunity to steal something, several neighbors turning on more lights in their home and looking out their windows will often deter them. Also, several witnesses can help the police get a better description of the criminal.
9. **Report all incidents to the police even if nothing is taken.** Unless the police are aware of problems they cannot give your street any special attention. Help them help you. Do not call the district office - call the police non-emergency number 765-1212.
10. **Join the Hyde Park Citizen's On Patrol Unit.** These neighbors are trained to be observant, patrol our community, and report suspicious people or activity to the police. This is your neighborhood, help protect it. Call Shelia at 321-7899 for information.

***You do not have to live in fear but you should take common sense precautions to lower your risk of becoming a victim.***