**Burglary Prevention**

**for Your Home**

A burglary is reported every 15 seconds in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice defines household burglary as “unlawful entry or attempted entry of a residence.” This crime usually, but not always, involves theft. Of all the major criminal offenses, residential burglary is the most common. Regardless of how much emphasis is placed on fighting crime, criminals are always around and tend to target the least prepared.

**The Gilpin County Sheriff’s Office offers Vacation Checks for residents that plan on being out of town or away from their home. All you have to do is call the Dispatch Center at 303-582-5500 and you will be asked a series of important questions so the Sheriff’s Office can better protect your home in your absence. That’s it! It only takes a few minutes to provide you with additional peace of mind while you are away.**

**DOORS and WINDOWS**

* All exterior doors should be solid core or of metal construction.
* All entry doors should be equipped with a good quality deadbolt lock having a minimum of a one inch throw.
* A good quality double cylinder deadbolt lock should be used of there is glass within 40 inches of the lock
* Use a heavy duty strike plate secured with number 12 gauge three-inch wood screws.
* All exit doors with outside hinges should have their hinges secured. If you have exterior doors that open outwards you can buy or make hinges that will provide substantially more security than standard exterior door hinges.
* Install a peephole with at least a 180 degree viewing area.
* Secure all sliding glass doors with an anti-lifting device and a secondary locking device.
* Windows have latches and not locks, therefore, install secondary locking devices on all windows.

**EXTERIOR and LANDSCAPE**

* Install lights in areas around doors, walkways, and driveways.
* Locate outside lights high and out of reach.
* Install security cameras. Place them high enough to be out of reach. They are relatively inexpensive and many models are easy to install.
* Use inexpensive timers or photo electric cells to automatically turn the light on and off at dusk and dawn.
* Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible from the street.
* If there is a second floor, prune the trees so that a thief cannot use them to reach a second floor window.
* To discourage an intruder, plant thorny hostile plants along, fences and near windows. A good fence should not block visibility.
* Do not leave ladders or tools outside. They can assist a person in gaining entry.
* Gates on fenced yards should be locked with good quality padlocks.
* Install large reflective numbers (minimum 3 inches) on your house and mailbox so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly

**ALARM SYSTEMS**

* Choose a reputable, well established company.
* Learn how to use your alarm system properly to reduce false alarms. Fines can be assess for excessive false alarms.
* Do not write your alarm code/password on or near the alarm keypad.
* Put a warning sign on windows and entrances.
* Make sure your alarm call back list is always yup to date.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

* **REMEMBER to call the Gilpin County Sheriff’s Office to request a Vacation Check** before leaving on vacation or whenever you will be away from your home for a lengthy amount of time.
* Keep doors, windows and garage doors closed and locked even when at home.
* Before moving into a new house or apartment, re-key or change the locks on all exterior doors, also change the code to your garage door opener.
* Draw all curtains or shades at night to prevent viewing from street.
* Never leave a house key in an obvious place such as a mailbox, under plants or a door mate.
* When traveling, keep you home looking live-in by having grass cut, mail and newspapers picked up and lights turned off and on.
* Keep a current inventory of all your valuable. Include photos or video, descriptions and serial numbers of all electron equipment.