



SENIORS ON SAFETY

Tips from your Senior Crime Prevention Specialist:

Recent Events: There was one incident of a home invasion and one home burglary recently involving older citizens. (A “burglary” is when no one is home at the time of the incident and a “home invasion” where residents are present) In both cases, residents had unlocked doors. I know it’s easy to leave doors open and unlocked in warm weather but please keep all exterior doors locked at all times, even if you’re just outside in your yard, working in the kitchen and so forth. If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, such as a vehicle driving slowly through an alley, a stranger cutting through a yard, checking car handles or ducking into garages, please call police and report the location, description of the person and a direction of travel.....and share this tip with neighbors and friends!

Identity & Other Thefts: If you are going to the gym or health club or day spa, leave all valuables at home or with you at all times...don’t leave purses or wallets unattended and don’t count on flimsy locks to keep your valuables safe in the locker room. Don’t leave valuables in your car, locked or not. Never keep extra sets of keys for your home or other vehicle in the car.

Don’t let it Happen Here: Recently, several older Mundelein homeowners were scammed in a “driveway coating” fraud, a version of Ruse Entry. Please help by reminding your neighbors NOT to accept ANY unsolicited home repair offers from drive-by “contractors,” it’s an invitation to be cheated! Other forms of Ruse Entry include phony utility workers who threaten to suspend water or electrical service if you don’t let them in to “check” your service and offers to take you to the bank to pay for repairs and landscaping. Only admit home repair workers you call yourself to schedule, never the ones that knock at the door uninvited.

Amanda Jones—Senior Crime Prevention Specialist
ajones@cityofevanston.org.