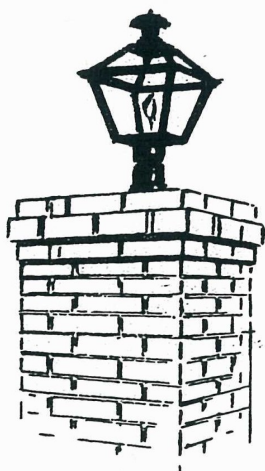


November 2019

taracivicassociation.org



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

TARA TALK

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VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION

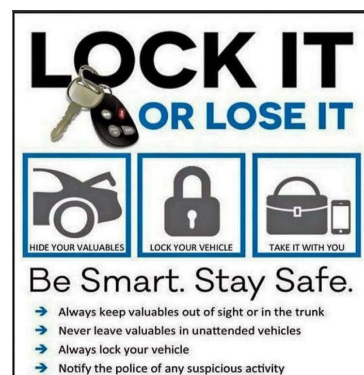
Vehicle burglaries are a crime of opportunity, and would-be thieves often target vehicles of those on vacation or vehicles parked in large parking lots. Thieves also like to hit during the middle of the night while you are sleeping. In fact, the average burglar simply checks for unlocked car door handles, spends less than a minute inside the vehicle, and always checks the glove box, door panels, and center console first. But these crimes are preventable, and there are some easy steps you can take to keep yourself from becoming a voluntary victim of vehicle burglary and theft.

Lock, Take, and Hide

Lock, Take, and Hide is an easy 3-step plan that drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim:

Lock your car doors.

Take your valuables with you. (This includes cell phones, wallets/purses, GPS units, computers, weapons, and jewelry). Or, at least, **Hide** those valuables so they aren't in plain sight.



Here are some other helpful tips:

Never leave your keys in the car or leave the vehicle running while unattended. Also, don't hide spare keys in or under the vehicle. Over 25% of all stolen vehicles had the keys left in the vehicle.

- If you have an alarm system on your vehicle, use it.
- Securing items in your trunk is a good way to deter theft, but don't place your property in the trunk at the time you park. Thieves will be watching for that, and can later enter your vehicle and open the trunk to steal your property.
- Park in well-lit areas and be alert to your surroundings. At home keep outside lights on.
- Use anti-theft devices. The use of devices such as a steering wheel lock, electronic alarm, an ignition kill-switch, gas cap lock, window VIN etching and a vehicle tracking device all protect your vehicle and deter vehicle theft.

Document the serial numbers of your property or etch some type of identifying information on the property to help locate and identify it later in case of theft.

Neighbors Watching Out For Neighbors

The Neighborhood Watch program is, quite simply, neighbors watching out for neighbors. The program fosters civic involvement, mutual commitment, community pride, a common goal, and a real sense of community. This program was started to help reduce the chances of problems developing in the future. No one knows a neighborhood better than the citizens who live there. The Neighborhood Watch program forms a partnership with law enforcement to help keep our neighborhoods safe.

A Neighborhood Crime Watch is a return to the days when neighbors took care of neighbors and communicated with the police.

The program helps reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim. It helps a community become stronger and more unified and there is greater access to criminal activity information.

Become involved. Block captains and block watchers needed. Call 338-0705 to sign up or get more information.

Christmas Light Decorating Contest



The Garden Club will be hosting the Annual Tara Christmas Lighting Contest on

Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm.

Categories: Best Door, Best Children's, Best Religious, Best Lighting, Most Original, and Judges Choice

(Judges are from neighboring subdivisions)

Check out this blog for ideas <https://www.christmasdesigners.com/blog/5-tips-for-winning-your-communitys-christmas-lighting-contest/>

Holiday Plants-The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Plants are popular holiday gifts that recipients can enjoy long after festive feasts are eaten, glittery decorations are packed away and joyous carols are silent. In fact, many holiday plants can flourish for years, reminding that someone special of your caring and thoughtfulness no matter what the season. But which plants are the best to give as holiday gifts?

Plants are always classic, popular options for holiday gifts, and you can find them at garden centers, nurseries and other retailers. Some holiday plants can be easily ordered online, or you might even give plants as cuttings or starts from your own garden or healthy house plants. There are many beautiful plants that make exceptional holiday gifts, including...



Poinsettia-These classic and familiar plants make a stunning holiday gift. The broad, colorful petals are actually the plant's leaves, and can be red, pink, white, magenta, orange, salmon, purple or variegated shades. Poinsettia sizes vary, and their bushy, mounding shape is ideal for centerpieces and bold arrangements.

Amaryllis-This bold bulb grows thick, upright stems with large, stunning blooms in red, white, pink, peach, orange or variegated hues. These plants are easy to care for and are stunning accents around a holiday home.

Paperwhites-Also called white narcissus or paperwhite narcissus, these small, upright blooms grow from bulbs and can be several inches tall. They are often arranged in groups to create a snowfall effect when they flower, and binding the stems with ribbon adds an extra festive accent to the plant.

Christmas Cactus-Not really a cactus but actually a succulent with flattened, lobe-like trailing foliage, these plants bloom in the winter in bright red, pink, orange or purple shades. Properly cared for they can live for many years, reliably re-blooming to celebrate each holiday season.

Norfolk Island Pine-These pines can be beautiful house plants with the soft, pliable needles and spreading branches. They can be decorated as living Christmas trees or even grown to plant outdoors in the landscaping.

Rosemary-A fragrant and delicious herb, rosemary is often trimmed into a tree-shaped bush to be a fun holiday gift. Not only are these beautiful plants, but they can be used to deliciously season a wide variety of savory holiday meals, making them just as practical as they are attractive.

Cyclamen-A low mounding perennial with broad green foliage, the red, pink or white blooms of cyclamen are stunning decorations for the holidays. These plants will bloom prodigiously for weeks, and need very little care to stay beautiful all season long.

Kalanchoe-A winter-blooming succulent, kalanchoe brings a beautiful touch of the tropics to winter homes. The flowers sprout in tiny clusters that may be yellow, peach, pink or other shades. New plants can easily be grown from the cuttings of healthy, vibrant plants.

Lucky Bamboo-The ultimate in easy-care, hard-to-kill plants, Lucky Bamboo arrangements are available with different numbers of stalks as well as elaborate twists, turns and curls. A more exotic option for a holiday gift, these plants will always be welcomed and appreciated.

Any House Plant-A plant doesn't have to be a traditional holiday option to be a good gift choice. Select the gift recipient's favorite plant types, or choose any plant they might enjoy. Succulents, air plants or even heirloom seeds are all fun choices that can be thoughtful gifts.

A plant can be a great gift for a friend, neighbor, coworker, family member or anyone else during the holidays. With proper selection, presentation and care, it will be a living reminder of friendship, love and thoughtfulness long after the holidays have passed.

Louisiana Nursery Blog

Louisiana Marathon Volunteers

Louisiana Marathon Sunday, January 19, 2019 Volunteers Needed

The Louisiana Marathon is an official Boston qualifier route. It features a fast, flat, and scenic course through downtown, local neighborhoods and LSU. Friends, family and enthusiastic spectators line up along the course in various spots to cheer on the runners, making for a spirited marathon.

Tara Subdivision is part of the full marathon course and volunteers are needed to pass out water, powerade, and energy gel packs as well as cheer on the runners. Runners come from all over and we want to show them what southern hospitality is all about. More info will follow by email about signing up to volunteer. If you are interested in running, there will be a full, half, quarter, 5K and kids marathon. You can sign up at:

www.thelouisianamarathon.com

Holiday Safety Tips

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, make sure you're taking every precaution possible to keep your home and family safe and secure. We usually see an increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; please remain vigilant.

Keep your blinds and drapes closed when away, even if only for a short period of time.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.

If your Christmas tree is displayed in front of a window, don't pile the presents around it. Store the gifts in another area away from view when the blinds or drapes are open.

Do NOT put the empty boxes for the new computer, TV, stereo system, etc. on the curb for the trash. Take the time to break down every box and put it inside your trashcan/recycling bin so that it is concealed, even if you have to hold it over to the next week. People start cruising our neighborhood on Sunday afternoons to see what has been put out. The less they know about what you have inside, the better.

Door-to-door solicitations increase tremendously this time of year. Always look out the window or peephole before opening the door or answering a knock. Never open the door all the way, especially if you have a Christmas tree and/or presents in plain view.

Always lock your car. Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition. If you usually keep a garage door remote control in your car and don't park it in the garage each and every time you return home, hide the remote or take it inside. Thieves check visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.

Keep your garage door closed at all times and keep the inside door from your home to the garage LOCKED.

Don't leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Take them in the house or put them in the trunk out of sight BEFORE arriving at your destination.

While shopping this holiday season, remain aware of your surroundings at all times. If unsure of your safety, ask a store attendant to have security walk you to your car. You can't be too safe. This goes for trips to the grocery store as well. When unloading your car at home after a day of shopping, lock it between trips to and from the car.

If you plan to be away: Let a neighbor and/or block captain know you'll be out of town and when you'll return. They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).

Let only those who NEED to know, know when you are going out of town.

Don't share vacation plans on social media. Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.

Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers. Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included)

Leave a car in the driveway or ask a neighbor to park in it.

Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.

Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals. Store all your valuables.

Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.

Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.

Fill out a Vacation Surveillance form at <https://www.taracivicassociation.org/vacation-surveillance>.

Most of all, be aware of your surroundings and look out for your neighbors. If you see or hear something suspicious, call 389-2000. The Police Department would much rather answer a false alarm than deal with a tragedy later.

We live in a GREAT community AND a SECURE neighborhood. Let's all do our part to keep it that way.

Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!





LET'S TALK TURKEY

Unsafe handling and under-cooking your holiday bird can cause foodborne illnesses. Here are a few tips from the USDA to keep your Thanksgiving safe and delicious!

Types of turkeys regulated by the USDA:



*For more information about each type of turkey, visit fsis.usda.gov.

3 WAYS TO THAW

While frozen, a turkey is safe indefinitely. As soon as it begins to thaw, bacteria that may have been present before freezing will begin to grow again. Here are three ways to safely thaw your bird:

Refrigerator:

Safe to store the turkey for another 1 – 2 days in the refrigerator.

This is the USDA recommended thawing method.

How to thaw:

Allow approximately 24 hrs. for every 4-5lbs of bird.

Cold water:

Cook immediately after thawing.

How to thaw:

Submerge the bird in cold water & change every 30 mins.

Microwave:

Cook immediately after thawing.

How to thaw:

Use defrost function based on weight

For more information on safe thawing methods, visit fsis.usda.gov

DID YOU KNOW?

It's safe to cook a frozen turkey though cooking time will be 50% longer!



Clean



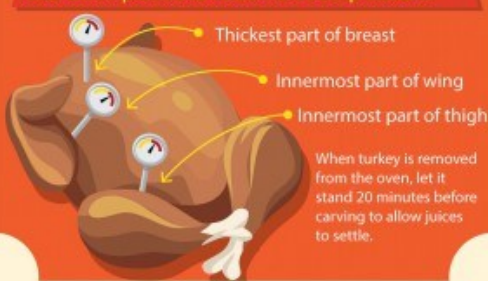
SEPARATE



COOK

Your bird is not safe until it reaches 165 °F — you cannot tell by the color. Remember to ensure any stuffing cooked with the bird reaches 165 °F, too!

Use three places to check the temperature.



CHILL

Take your time around the dinner table, but refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit foodsafety.gov

If you have a specific question, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHOTLINE or visit AskKaren.gov. Visit PregunteleAKaren.gov for questions in Spanish.





Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips



1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.

Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.



2. Do not overload electrical outlets.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.



3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.



4. Keep tree fresh by watering daily.

Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.



5. Use battery-operated candles.

Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).



6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.

A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations. (NFPA).



7. Protect cords from damage.

To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.



8. Check decorations for certification label.

Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.



9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).



10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (NFPA)



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION
1554 TARA BLVD.
BATON ROUGE LA 70806

Ham, Potato and Cabbage Soup

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 large onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
1 clove garlic, minced
6 cups Chicken Broth
3 cups shredded green cabbage
2 large white potato, diced
8 ounces cooked hamsteak, cut into 2-inch-long strips

How to Make It

Step 1

Heat the oil in a 6-quart saucepot over medium-high heat. Add the onions and garlic and cook for 3 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.

Step 2

Stir the broth, 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, cabbage, potato and ham in the saucepot and heat to a boil. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for 30 minutes or until the potato is tender.



Reminders

TARA SUBDIVISION IS A DEED RESTRICTED SUBDIVISION.

There is a form available for use by residents who are planning to make **revisions, modifications or additions** to their property. If you are planning such a project, you **MUST submit** a completed copy of the property owner's **application** for building or remodeling available at <http://www.taracivicassociation.org/before-you-build>.

Fill out and mail to the Architectural Control Committee (address on form). The committee will review the plans and will notify you of their approval or disapproval within thirty (30) days.

SECURITY ISSUES

Emergencies call 911

Non-Emergencies call

City Police 389-2000

See Something Say Something

If you see suspicious activity, report it. Use your cell phone to snap a picture.

If you are going out of town, fill out the form on the website so our officers can keep an eye out.

TARA PRIVATE PATROL UNITS

Chevy Tahoe #430

Chevy Impala #1230

Chevy Impala #1315

Chevy Impala #1404

