



SOUTHMOOR PARK EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL HOMEOWNER BULLETIN

July 5, 2007

Another Burglary in Southmoor Park East

Recent Burglary in Southmoor Park East. The Board has been informed that there was another burglary in Southmoor Park East that closely followed the pattern we saw in 2006. There was an attempted break in at 9:30 pm at night on Tuesday July 3 at a home on South Oneida. As we saw last year, the burglar gained entry to the back yard of the home, found a dark or concealed spot, broke a window and entered the empty home. In this particular case, the residents were at home and were wakened by the barking of their dog. There was no violence or confrontation with the burglar(s). The only evidence left was some broken glass and a partially open back door. It appeared that the burglars immediately fled once they realized someone was at home. The Denver Police responded to a 911 call. They acknowledged the other break-ins in 2006 and said that they would try keep up a neighborhood presence for a while, stopping to talk to people who are walking after dark.

The Denver Police contact given to the homeowner is Ron Brightwell, District 3, Badge # 001L0, 720-913-7312. He said to call him with anything looking or sounding even remotely suspicious. While the Denver Police have been very responsive in every instance, they are quick to remind every homeowner that the best protection from this type of crime is diligence—diligence by the homeowners themselves and considerate attention by their neighbors.

What can you do to protect yourself and your neighbors? Everyone's circumstances are slightly different but here are some ideas you may want to consider to make everyone's home a little more secure:

- 1. Tell your neighbors what is going on.** In several of the reported cases, neighbors heard glass breaking or non-monitored alarms and did not call the police because they assumed it was just ordinary activity. If you hear glass breaking or if your neighbor's alarm goes off, call the neighbor to see if they are home. If not, call the police. Spread the word about the burglaries and pay attention to what is going on at your neighbors' homes.
- 2. Report all suspicious activity in the neighborhood to police immediately.** Call the District 3 Denver Police Department immediately at 720-913-1300. Do not call 911 for mere suspicions.
- 3. Lock all of your doors and ground floor windows after dark.** And don't forget to close your garage doors.

4. **Lock or secure the gate to your back yard so that the thieves cannot easily access it.** This may be the most effective thing you can do, considering these burglars' *modus operandi*. In the most recent case, the gate was inadvertently left unlocked.
5. **Activate your burglar alarm whenever you are not at home.** If you don't have a burglar alarm, consider installing one. Even a modest, non-monitored burglar alarm can help. Alarms and loud noises have scared these burglars away from Southmoor Park homes. Back windows appear to be the target.
6. **Call the police if your neighbor's burglar alarm goes off.** Do not assume that it is monitored. You may be the only monitor that your neighbor is counting on.
7. **Turn on porch lights and back door lights.** Burglars do not like light. Consider motion activated lights. Consider making the lights difficult to incapacitate. Burglars know how to unscrew light bulbs so they can work in the dark.
8. **Be a good neighbor.** Pick up newspapers piling up on neighbors' driveways or porches or flyers stuck in doorways so it is not obvious that the neighbor is on vacation or away from home.
9. **Tell your neighbors when you are going to be away.** Help them help you.
10. **Don't complain too quickly when the neighbor's dog is barking.** One of these times that dog might be barking at a burglar who might otherwise break into your house.

YOUR SPEHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Terry (President), Fred Jorgensen (Vice President), Charlie Friedman (Vice President), Blair Perron (Secretary), Aaron Kelly (Treasurer), Jack Green, Robert Finkelmeier, Paul Bottone.

All SPEHA homeowners have an open invitation to attend monthly Board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Floor Board Room of Citywide Bank Building at Hampden & Monaco. Please arrive early so we can be sure to get you in). If you are locked out, call Lee Terry at (303) 246 6124 and we will come downstairs and let you in.