



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

## FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

*Sheriff William T. Schatzman*



November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Village of Clemmons Residents:

On Monday, November 28, 2016, Forsyth County Sheriff's Deputies responded to numerous reports of vandalism and auto break-ins that occurred during the previous night. The majority of the auto break-ins consisted of subjects going into unlocked vehicles and rummaging through glove boxes and consoles looking for anything to steal. There were also reports of mail being removed from several mailboxes and one mail box being vandalized.

While these incidents were concentrated in neighborhoods near South Peace Haven Road, this type of criminal behavior can occur at anytime and at any place. Every homeowner should be aware that as we enter the holiday season this kind of criminal activity can increase. There are several precautions you could and should take to lessen the likelihood of becoming a victim of this type of crime.

First, **always lock your doors**. This principle applies to your vehicles, as well as your residences. Many times someone with crime on their mind will simply walk through neighborhoods looking for easy opportunities to remove your property.

Second, **residents should not leave anything of value in the vehicles**. Purses, computers, firearms, money, book bags, etc. should always be removed from your vehicle. If you are unable to remove an item from your vehicle, please place it in the trunk or other area which is not visible from the exterior of the vehicle.

Third, **criminals do not like lights and noise**. If possible, you should leave an outside light turned on at night. Motion sensor lights work great and are outstanding crime deterrent for homeowners. Car and home audible alarms also provide a deterrent to would be criminals.

Fourth, residents should be aware that as we get closer to Christmas, the amount of mail increases. **You should not forget to check your mail daily**. Again, it is not unusual for a criminal to go through neighborhoods checking mailboxes looking for anything of value and to potentially see who may be out of town. Many people also order things online now and have them shipped via FedEx or UPS to their homes. It is important to track any shipments and know the date and time of expected arrival in an effort to have someone plan to be home to receive any shipments.

Fifth, **do not advertise the amount of Christmas presents that are in your home** by leaving your curtains open to display your Christmas tree and gifts when you are not at home. Criminals go Christmas shopping also and often it is in our neighborhoods.

Finally, **report anything you believe is suspicious to the Sheriff's Office**. If it is important to you, it is important to us. The emergency number is 911 and the non-emergency number is (336) 727-2112. Be a good neighbor and keep watch for suspicious activities, vehicle and persons. When one is encountered, give the Sheriff's office a call; "**See Something, Say Something**".

Following these simple tips will us fight crime and ensure you have a happy and safe holiday season.

William T. Schatzman  
Sheriff

301 North Church Street  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101  
(336) 917-7001 • [www.feso.us](http://www.feso.us)