Burglary Prevention Tips (It is SUMMER TIME)

In March of 2017 the Today Show interviewed Nicholas Kyriazis. Kyriazis estimates he has burglarized at least 100 homes, but maybe 150 homes. He is serving a 70 year prison sentence. He provided the following tips:

- Have a neighbor collect your mail/watch your house. Most of us still receive “snail-mail” and if it piles up it is a signal to thieves. Neighbors watching your address falls directly in line with Neighborhood Watch and Nextdoor.com
- Thieves most often strike in the morning hours, 8am to 2pm. A survey by WNBC in New York showed over 50% of the convicted burglars said their jobs were done in the morning.
- Do NOT assume an alarm system will protect you. “Alarm systems alerts me that people are NOT home when it is turned on.” Kyriazis said.
- Do NOT assume a home security camera will protect you. “If people have money for security cameras, they have something worth protecting.”
- LOCK YOUR DOORS WHEN YOU LEAVE!!! Most burglars do not carry burglary tools because doors or windows are left unlocked.
- Dogs are a good deterrent.
- Never engage a burglar. Thieves and experts agree that if you come upon a burglary in progress, leave, find a safe place, and call 911.

I will interject in regards to Home security cameras. I have the “Ring” doorbell on my house and I love it. I would strongly recommend it to everyone, just as I would recommend Nextdoor.com.

Tornado Safety Tips (from NOAA)

1. Seek shelter in a sturdy building, or a pre-designated shelter. Go to the lowest level of the building, preferably in a basement, and get under a heavy desk or workbench or sit next to the wall and cover your head with your arms/hands.
2. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room/hallway – put as many walls between you and the outside of the building, and stay away from windows. Other possibilities: get into a bathtub or under a bed or sofa.
3. Get out of vehicles do not try to outrun a tornado.
4. If caught outside – lie flat on the ground and cover your head with your hands.
5. Be aware of flying debris – most deaths and injuries are caused by flying debris.
6. Manufactured homes (mobile trailers) offer little protection, even if tied down. Leave these for a sturdy shelter before the storm approaches.
7. Do not seek shelter under a highway overpass. Wind blow stronger under the overpass due to the wind-tunnel effect.
8. Don’t waste time opening windows and doors to equalize air pressure differences
9. Remember – the tornado can occur before there is a visible funnel cloud.
10. No place is totally safe from tornadoes (except for a safe room) – if weather conditions come together properly, the tornado will go over or through mountains, lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes, bogs, and through downtown areas that have 1000 foot skyscrapers!
Scam Alerts (Romance Scams)

A victim involved in this edition’s scam came to talk to me last week about what happened to her over the course of a couple of months. This scam tugs at your heart strings. It is the “Romance Scam”. This scam involves the victim becoming very interested in a “suitor”. The suitor is actually the scammer. Once the suitor makes you believe you are their exclusive romantic interest, they start asking for money.

The following comes from www.romancescams.org: “Scams are BIG business. Run just like any "for profit" organization, there is a hierarchy and an organizational structure: the peons, the managers, the big bosses. Internet cafes are shut down to normal business so scammers can do "their jobs". Home computers are a rare commodity. Most households in West Africa and other third world countries cannot afford them nor can they afford the cost of a monthly connection. Because of the easy money made from victims, scammers are well-to-do respected business men/women who quit their "normal" day jobs.”

If you believe you are a victim of a “Romance Scam”, please call the Normal Police Department’s non-emergency number. Please understand, we will do what we can with the scam, but there is little probability of solving this case. Most scams originate in West Africa and do NOT involve “real” people. It is easiest to not friend these suspects in the first place.

SEC. 23.3-51 MOTOR VEHICLES PROHIBITED ON CONSTITUTION TRAIL: A. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the Constitution Trail in the Town of Normal. (Amended 5/5/97 by Ord. No. 4449) B. This prohibition shall not apply to persons operating emergency vehicles and to employees of the Town who are using motor vehicles to perform routine maintenance on the property.
Normal Residential Burglaries April 1st to June 30th, 2017

There were 17 residential burglaries reported in the Town of Normal from April 1st to June 30th, 2017. The following list includes burglaries of private residences organized by date. Burglaries from most apartment complexes, especially in the Illinois State University campus area, are not included in this information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Date</th>
<th>Report Time</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Force Used</th>
<th>Estimated Loss Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/16/2017</td>
<td>00:21</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>E. Lincoln</td>
<td>Attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/27/2017</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>N. Maple</td>
<td>No Force</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/30/2017</td>
<td>Several Days</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Hovey</td>
<td>No Force</td>
<td>$625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/30/2017</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Alden</td>
<td>No Force</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/20/2017</td>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>N. School</td>
<td>No Force</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: Of the 5 burglaries represented here, 4 residences were entered by way of an unlocked door, window, or open garage/garage door. The loss value represents the total dollar amount of damage caused added to the total dollar amount of stolen items as reported by the victims.

There were also 36 vehicle burglaries reported in Normal between April 1st, 2017 to June 30th 2017.
Lip Sync Battle, August 10th Mackinaw Winery

On Thursday August 10th the Second Annual Lip Sync Battle for Special Olympics will occur at the Mackinaw Winery. Ten acts will perform to see who has the best costumes, song and performance. Please come out and show support for the local celebrities and the Special Olympic Athletes. The festivities start at 7pm, doors open at 6pm.

Which number do I call?

There are several ways to contact the Normal Police Department, depending on what type of situation or question you may have. The following is a guide to help you choose the correct contact number.

- In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.

- If you require non-emergency police assistance within the Town of Normal, please use the non-emergency dispatch number - 309/888-5030.

- If you have a question that requires an immediate answer, the Normal Police Department front desk can be reached 24 hours-a-day at 309/454-9535.