

Dear Barton Creek North neighbors,

The Travis County Sheriff's Office has reported incidences of cars being broken into in the greater Barton Creek area within the last few weeks. Please be diligent and report anything suspicious to the Travis County Sheriff's Office. If your car is broken into, please report it.

Below are some tips from an interview with Sheriff Frank Lofton that was published in the BC North newsletter. It gives great advice and tips on how to be safe.

1. What is the Home Check (formerly Close Patrol) Service? When residents go out of town, they can sign up on the sheriff's website by clicking <https://www.tcsheriff.org/services/public-resources/home-check> to have officers check their house for safety. He urges us to let neighbors know to keep an eye out for unusual activity. He also suggests we make a list of authorized visitors and/or vehicles. Residents can request this free service anytime but usually people request it for a vacation or for a trip of week or more. However, if you want them to patrol when you are gone for a long weekend, they will do that, too. Lt. Lofton noted "we have NEVER had a house broken into in the Barton Creek area while on Close Patrol." He advises "Have neighbors pick up any packages on your porch when you will be away".
2. What tips do you have to prevent break-ins? Most residents in Barton Creek have security systems but he advises not to become complacent, turn the systems on. It's a good idea to have security cameras, signs in the yard and/or on the windows and a monitored security system. Motion activation lights can be very helpful or have outside lighting to illuminate your property." He adds, "the darker it is, it's more of a target of opportunity." Trim hedges and vegetation below windows. Lock all doors and windows, even when you are in your home. Park your car inside the garage. He advises against parking in the street but, "if you do, DON'T leave garage door openers or valuables in your car." "Never leave purse, backpack, computer bags or firearms in an unattended vehicle in your driveway or on the street".
3. Lastly, "Get to know your neighbors, watch each other's homes, and let them know when you will be away".

Sincerely,

Barton Creek North Property Owners Association Board