

SAHNW Crime and Hazard Tips

Crime prevention Tips

Community Resource Officer Michael Salvaggio offers the following tips:

- Close your garage door each night before you go to bed.
- Secure all vehicles parked outside overnight, locking the doors and removing any valuable items from inside the car.
- Residents who have firearms in their homes can request a gun lock from the Carpentersville Police Department to secure the firearm at no cost (while supplies last).
- When going on vacation, remember to fill out a "Vacation Check" form at the Carpentersville Police Department so your home can be checked daily.

You can contact Officer Salvaggio via email at msalvaggio@vil.carpentersville.il.us or phone 847-551-3481 for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste

The Village has received numerous calls on how to dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) and what exactly is considered HHW, which must be disposed of properly. In order to dispose of these materials Carpentersville residents may call 800-449-7587 to schedule a pickup of your HHW. The service is operated by Curbside, Inc. and is sponsored by Kane County, the City of Elgin, and the Village of Carpentersville and South Elgin. If a list of HHW items is needed please go to the Kane County Recycling web site at <http://www.co.kane.il.us/Environment>.

Tips To Avoid Home Repair Fraud

The Village cannot recommend a particular contractor, so it is important that residents take the right steps to reduce the risks of fraud. Please keep the following items in mind when contemplating hiring a contractor for home repair, remodeling work, or any type of construction activity:

- Ask for proof of insurance, local references, and to see the contractor's license issued by the Village of Carpentersville.

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- Get more than one estimate and get them in writing. Don't fall for high pressure sales tactics and prices that seem "too good to be true."
- Inspect the contract carefully. Check to see that it includes:
 - The contractor's full name, address, and telephone number
 - A detailed description of the work to be performed
 - The starting and estimated completion dates
 - Total cost for work performed including charges for estimates, and
 - The schedule and method of payment including down payment, subsequent payments, and final payment.
- DO NOT make subsequent or final payments until you are satisfied with the work.
- DO NOT make the final payment until you get lien waivers. This protects you from claims against you or your property in the event a general contractor fails to pay subcontractors or material suppliers.
- Do not sign a contract that has blank spaces or that you do not understand.
- Find out whether the contractor guarantees his or her work and products.
- Remember, you have three business days to cancel any contract if the sale is made and signed at your home. The contractor CANNOT take this right away from you by initiating work, selling your contract to a lender, or any other tactic. The following are typical examples of home repair rip-off schemes:
 - Unsolicited door-to-door salespeople with no local connections offer to do home repair work for substantially less than market price.
 - A company which lists only a telephone or post-office box number solicits for repair work.
 - Someone offers to inspect your home for free, especially if they have no authentic identification establishing their business status.
 - A contractor demands cash payment and/or full payment before they complete a job.
 - A contractor asks for a check payable to a third party.
 - A contractor offers to drive the homeowner to his/her bank to withdraw funds to pay for their work.