



SECURITY AND SAFETY REMINDERS

Around Your Home

Lock Doors and Windows of your Home and Vehicles. Surprisingly, one of the most common mistakes homeowners make is erroneously assuming their neighborhood is safe enough to leave doors and windows unlocked. Please remember to lock all doors and windows when you're not home, including those facing the back yard.

Bring in Mail and Packages. Mail and package theft happens all too often, so please avoid letting mail accumulate in your mailbox or leaving packages on your doorstep. Retrieve your mail every day and bring in packages as soon as possible. If you plan on being away from home for a while, ask your neighbor to pick up your mail and packages or submit to the USPS a mail delivery suspension.

Watch your Bike. Bicycle and small property theft happens when you least expect it. If you can't keep an eye on your bicycles, scooters, strollers, or wagons, keep them in your closed and locked garage when not in use.

Keep on the Lights. Your house should appear occupied at all times. Use timers to switch lights on and off when you're not at home and turn on a radio talk show to make it sound like someone is home. Better yet, invest in smart light bulbs that can be controlled remotely or scheduled to turn on at certain times of the day.

Trim Landscaping. Plantings that grow to more than three-feet high can provide adequate concealment for a burglar who is attempting to enter your home. Trim back all landscaping to ensure the front of your home is clearly visible from the road.

Vacation Watch. Those who contribute to the AONA security program should be sure to take advantage of the vacation watch services provided by the off-duty sheriff patrol deputies. For the dates you specify and during their neighborhood patrol hours, the sheriff deputies will walk the perimeter of your property to check for any problems and call you or your designated representative if any issues are noted during that time.

Home Security Services. Many home security systems are available to purchase and install in your home and around your property, and some insurance companies offer discounts and incentives to offset the cost. Home security cameras can assist in prosecuting the intruders should valuables be stolen. Some inexpensive cameras and security systems are Ring, Arlo, Nest, and SimpliSafe, although many more options are available.

Be aware that older alarm systems are perimeter-type alarms with sensors triggered by the opening of a door or window, but they often do not include glass-break sensors or motion detectors. This means that a potential thief could break a window, climb through the opening, and ransack the house undetected. To fortify your home alarm system, work with your alarm company to augment your existing system with glass-break sensors and motion detectors. Alternatively, homeowners can add a stand-alone system that provides interior glass-break sensors and motion detectors.

If you have a home security system, be sure to turn it on and use it!



Around the Neighborhood

Pedestrian Safety. Because we lack sidewalks in Arden Oaks and must walk in the street, walk *facing* traffic. When it's dark or near dark, wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight. Some people even have reflective jackets for their dogs!

Driver Safety. When driving in the neighborhood, maintain the speed limit and always be on the look out for pedestrians. Be especially mindful of pedestrians when backing up or exiting your driveway.

Know your Neighbors and be on the Alert for Suspicious Activity. Knowing your neighbors, their vehicles, and their living patterns will help you differentiate ordinary living conditions from suspicious activities. As neighbors, we can all provide extra eyes for each other.

Report Suspicious Activity or Concerns. To make a report, call the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at **916- 874-5115**.

If there is an emergency, call 911. This call will reach the off-duty sheriff patrol if they are currently monitoring our neighborhood. Otherwise, an on-duty deputy sheriff will respond.

If you become a victim to vandalism, mail or property theft, or illegal dumping, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office asks that you file a crime report online at: **sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php**. A crime report takes less than five minutes to submit and because patrol decisions are largely based on where crime is being reported within the County, submitting a report can help ensure that Arden Oaks receives an adequate level of service from *both* on-duty and off-duty sheriff patrols.

Security Information and Notification

The most dependable source of information for neighborhood crime is the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office website: **sacsheriff.com/pages/online_crime_mapping.php**. For your convenience, you can also access this site under the Security tab of the ArdenOaks.org website. If you want to speak to someone directly at the Sheriff's Office, you may call their non-emergency phone number: **916-874-5115**.

For notable or extraordinary incidents, AONA will use the email distribution system to report on crime information in Arden Oaks conveyed to AONA by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.