One of the most common crimes committed is burglary. In fact, in the U.S. there’s a burglary committed every 15 seconds. If it happens at your home, you lose more than a few possessions. A break-in, even when you’re not there, has a major impact on you and your family’s sense of safety and well-being.

There are a lot of things you can do to boost home security and make your house more burglary-resistant. Here are some tips you can use to help you keep your home safe.

**Never advertise that you are not home.**
- If you are on vacation or working late, you may want to use automatic light timers that simulate your normal patterns. Using timers that have more than one on-off cycle can create the illusion of movement from room to room.
- Instead of stopping your mail and newspaper delivery, ask a neighbor to pick them up and hold them for you. Seeing deliveries being made makes a burglar think someone is at home.

**Don’t make it easy on the Burglars**
- Never leave doors or windows unlocked or hide a key to your house outside.
- Using at least one long screw in attaching each door hinge and on deadbolt plates will help to secure the door against forced entry.
- Use a metal or wooden rod in the track on sliding glass patio doors to prevent them from sliding open.
- Never leave a ladder that can be used to access the roof or a second story window outside or in an unlocked shed.

**Garage doors are traditionally weak links in Home Security**
- Be sure to lock it up! It sounds like common sense, but many burglaries happen by simply walking through an unlocked garage door.
- Leaving your garage door open can allow anyone driving or walking by a full view of all of your possessions. A burglar just needs a couple of minutes to take what they need.
- Install a bright light or motion sensor lights near your garage. Be sure to install lighting out of reach from a burglar.
- Engraving your name on all of your high value items in your garage can save you. Burglars have a hard time pawning items with someone else’s name on it. Also, if your items are ever stolen and found later on, it’s a good way for the police to get your things back to you.

**Install a Home Security System and Video Surveillance**
- Home security alarms and Video Surveillance are not a guarantee that burglars will not enter your home. But they do make it more difficult by increasing the risk that the burglar will be seen and caught. Also, if it’s obvious your house is alarmed, the burglar may look for an easier target.
The Social Committee is starting to plan a holiday party at the Walker Ranch park. Please join us Friday, November 30th to toast the holidays, make a gingerbread house, holiday movie, a visit/picture with Santa.....social time with your neighbors!

If you would like to help with the planning of the holiday party or join the Social Committee please contact:

Shannon Hrncir (210) 823-8848
or
Rebecca Stine (210) 240-3391

Landscape & Amenities Committee Contacts
Not available online.

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THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims seem to go together, just like Christmas and Santa Claus—but the truth is, the Pilgrims never held an autumnal Thanksgiving feast. Before you cancel the turkey, take a look at the origin of that particular myth. In some ways, the truth is even more intriguing.

The Pilgrims did have a feast in 1621, after their first harvest, and it is this feast which people often refer to as “The First Thanksgiving”. This feast was never repeated, though, so it can’t be called the beginning of a tradition, nor was it termed by the colonists or “Pilgrims” a Thanksgiving Feast. In fact, to these devoutly religious people, a day of thanksgiving was a day of prayer and fasting, and would have been held any time that they felt an extra day of thanks was called for. Nevertheless, the 1621 feast has become a model that we think of for our own Thanksgiving celebration and we do know something of the truth about it.

We can assume, for example, that the harvest feast was eaten outside based on the fact that the Colonists didn’t have a building large enough to accommodate all the people who came. Native People were definitely among the invited guests, and it’s possible, even probable, that turkey (roasted but not stuffed) and pumpkin in some form, found their way to the table. And it gets better. This is the way the feast was described in a first-hand account presumably by a leader of the colony, Edward Winslow, as it appears in Mourt’s Relation:

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms. Many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

From this we know that the feast went on for three days, included ninety “Indians”, and food was plentiful. In addition to the venison provided by the Indians, there was enough wild fowl to supply the village for a week. The fowl would have included ducks, geese, turkeys and even swans.
To Contact SAPD

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (210) 207-7273
North Substation (210) 207-8126
SAFFE (210) 207-8350
Property Crimes (210) 207-7601

To Contact the Main SAFD Divisions

Fire Chief’s Office (210) 207-8400
Public Information Office (210) 207-8492
Firefighting Division (210) 207-4058
EMS Division (210) 207-7525
Fire Prevention Division (210) 207-8410
Arson Bureau (210) 207-7673
Community Safety & Education Division (210) 207-8422

Request a City Service - 311 or

With the new 311 Mobile App, residents can submit service requests reports for the following services:

- Aggressive Animal
- Dead Animal Pick Up
- Graffiti in Parks
- Graffiti Public Property
- Graffiti Private Property
- Junk Vehicle
- Overgrown Yard
- Pot Hole Repair
- Animal Cruelty
- Damaged Garbage Cart
- Garbage/Recycle No Pick Up
- Traffic Sign Missing/Down
- Trapped/Confined Animal
- Injured Animal
Minimizing Lawn Disease in the Fall

By Nathan Riggs, SAWS Project Coordinator

Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall multiply the chances of disease problems in local lawns. Bermuda, zoysia and St. Augustine grasses can be susceptible to fungal diseases if the following conditions are present: overwatering or high soil moisture, high soil pH, poor soil fertility or improper mowing height.

Let’s take a look at the common fungal turf diseases that are possible in San Antonio.

- **Take-All Root Rot**, or Take-All Patch, is a very common fungal disease in St. Augustine characterized by yellowing of the grass and tiny puzzle piece-shaped fungal structures called hyphopodia on the stolons. Reducing water application where possible and applying sphagnum peat moss or ammonium sulfate fertilizer to the lawn helps reduce pH in the soil. Fungicide products should be applied before this fungus becomes a problem, because it’s very difficult to cure once established.

- **Brown Patch Fungus**, or Rhizoctonia, is another disease that appears when nighttime temperatures drop below 68 degrees and daytime temps stay in the mid-80s, combined with extended periods of increased humidity. Avoid applying too much nitrogen fertilizer and reduce thatch levels in the grass to help reduce moisture. Infected grass blades can be easily pulled off of the stolons. There are many fungicide products available on the market that will cure this fungus when applied properly.

- **Gray Leaf Spot** fungus effects St. Augustine grass in late summer as the result of high humidity and proper conditions. The leaf spots are grayish in color with purple margins. Grass infected with this fungus should not be given nitrogen fertilizers until the disease is cured. There are products available to help treat this disease.

Fungal diseases are usually the result of high moisture and humidity combined with cooler temperatures. Reducing the amount of water applied to the lawn, utilizing core aeration to reduce compaction and proper fertilization of the soil can help you reduce the chances of fungal diseases in your turf.

For green healthy lawns, always follow the dictum, “Less is best.” Less water, less fertilizer and less compaction.

Source: www.GardenStyleSanAntonio.com

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Were you denied life insurance benefits because your insurance company claims your loved one lied on the policy application?

While this is one of the tactics used by insurance companies to deny life insurance claims, the standard necessary to prove such misrepresentation is very high in Texas. Don’t let a life insurance company take advantage of you. Contact us at (210) 733-4177 to set up a free consultation on your life insurance denial claim. We will fight to get you the benefits you deserve.

¿Se le negó un reclamo de beneficios de seguro de vida porque la compañía de seguro insiste que su ser querido mintió en su aplicación?

Aunque ésta es una de las tácticas que usan las compañías de seguro de vida para negar reclamos, el nivel de evidencia necesario para probar una representación falsa es muy alto en Texas. No deje que una compañía de seguro de vida se aproveche de usted. Contáctenos al (210) 733-4177 para fijar una cita de consulta gratis para discutir su reclamo de seguro de vida. Pelearemos por ayudarle a recuperar los beneficios que se merece.

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My family has been in the real estate business in Texas for decades. It is a business that I know well and enjoy very much. My focus is on customer service and I am there for my clients to help them through the process of purchasing or selling their home.

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Tips to Help Keep Your Packages Safe This Holiday Season

1. Don’t leave your packages sitting. Monitor when your packages are expected to arrive. Leaving your packages on your porch for a long period of time or in your mailbox overnight is an open invitation to thieves.

2. Talk to your neighbors. If you have neighbors who are home during the day, consider asking them to collect your packages on the delivery date. More than likely, they’ll be willing to help which can eliminate some holiday stress for you.

3. Consider an alternate destination. When placing your order online, consider sending the package to your workplace or to a family member or friend who is home during the day to accept delivery. If sending to your workplace, please check with your employer to make sure this is allowed.

4. Ship to the store. Some retailers allow you ship to a store near you. While this isn’t as convenient, it does provide security and helps avoid long lines at the register. Some stores even have special parking or waiting areas for online pick-ups only.

5. Leave a note. A note left with a mail carrier alerting them to leave packages at the post office has also been recommended by postal officials.

6. Install security cameras. Security cameras pointing at your front door or driveway is better than no camera at all. A security camera serves as a great deterrent for criminals and helps prevent package theft.

7. Install a smart lockbox. If you have deliveries showing up daily you may want to consider installing a lockbox. These boxes can be bolted to your front porch. Once installed, share your code with your delivery service and you should be good to go.

8. Request signature on delivery. Consider having your packages delivered only when someone is available to sign for them.

9. Insure your holiday packages. Because package theft increases around the holidays, it may be wise to insure your packages this time of year. This way, if your package is stolen, you can be reimbursed for your loss.

10. Ship to your local pack and ship store. If you have a UPS, FedEx, or other locally owned packing and shipping store nearby, consider sending your packages there.
BETH WATKINS
FOR JUSTICE
4th Court of Appeals, Place 2

Do One Thing Well

Born and raised in San Antonio, and graduating from St. Mary’s University School of Law, I have worked toward one goal—justice for every Texan in our appellate courts.

I have dedicated my career to appellate law. I am proud to be a board certified expert in civil appellate law. I fight hard every day to ensure that all of my clients have full and fair representation in our appellate courts.

That’s why I’m running to serve you on the Fourth Court of Appeals. I hope to earn your support and your vote.

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