



For Immediate Release  
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## Tip of the Month- Preventing Burglaries

Harrisonburg, VA – As part of the Crime Prevention initiative the Harrisonburg Police Department continues to provide monthly tips to residents in an effort to reduce crime. Spring is right around the corner and warmer weather usually generates a higher volume of calls for service in the City. A large portion of the increasing crimes this time of the year are burglaries, with majority of these burglaries occurring in college housing. Student living complexes become extremely vulnerable while those who normally occupy them are traveling over spring break. The following tips are not a guarantee to prevent a burglary, but create a substantially lower risk for residents to become victims.

Every few seconds a burglary occurs in the U.S. with nearly 4.8 billion dollars lost annually. A startling 65% of burglaries occur during the day when criminals assume that no one is home. While HPD does increase patrols in the areas of student complexes during spring break, ensuring that your residence is secure is extremely important. Some things to remember before leaving for extended periods are:

- Have deadbolt locks on external doors;
- Keep points of entry well lit, both doors and windows;
- Do not leave a spare key outside while you are away;
- Shut and lock all windows;
- Leave some lights on inside and place lights on timers to turn on and off at different intervals;
- Secure sliding glass doors with a wooden dowel or secondary lock;

Enhancing your home security doesn't have to be expensive. The better lit, lived-in and lively you make your home look, the better. Burglars are looking for easy targets and usually will turn door handles and lift windows until they find one that is open. Small steps before you leave can make a big difference when you return. If you are not traveling for spring break, pay attention to your surroundings and call the police to report any suspicious activity. For additional information on how you can protect yourself and your property please call HPD's Crime Prevention Officer at (540) 437-2672.

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