



AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO PERSONAL SAFETY

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Awareness is the key to your personal safety. Last month's issue of The Meadoword reminded us of the basics, they are worth repeating.

- Stay alert, be aware of people and our surroundings.
- Do not place yourself in a situation that makes you appear vulnerable.
- Do not use or wear anything that will impede your vision or hearing.
- Above all trust your instincts.

Cathy Duff, law enforcement deputy, crime prevention unit is a standing member of our safety committee here in The Meadows. Deputy Duff reminds all of us of The Meadows long safety record. If you do see something, call the Sheriff's Office and report it.

SIMPLE SECURITY MEASURES

Simple Security & Safety Measures Sometime we become too comfortable in our surroundings and forget some simple security measure we can do to continue to keep up all safe and prevent any criminal temptations.

- Keep your garage door closed when not in use.
- Lock your doors and windows.
- Check to ensure the lighting around your home is adequate. Lighted landscaping eliminates hiding places.
- Check all of your smoke detectors and ensure they are in good working condition. Check batteries and replace at least once a year.
- Avoid overloading outlets and extension cords.
- Keep steps clear of objects and well lit. • Keep your phone nearby at night in case of an emergency



Emergency? Call 911

Non- Emergency? Call 941-316-1201

MCA Safety Patrol 941-809-0084

Our Safety Patrol is often the first on the scene of a reported crime or incident here in The Meadows. When a resident calls the Safety Patrol a uniformed officer will respond to the residence or the location of the caller. They assess the situation professionally and determine if the Sheriff's Office needs to be called. If the situation is in fact a crime or legal violation, they will always advise the resident to call the Sheriff's Office. But it is up to the resident to make the call. Some residents think that it's the responsibility of The Meadows Safety Patrol to notify the Sheriff's Department on behalf of the resident if they are called to the resident's home to report an incident. Some residents may think our safety patrol have police authority. They do not. Remember, it is the responsibility of the resident to notify the Sheriff's Office to report any incident that may have happened to them or their property.

The Safety Patrol always tells the resident to call the Sheriff's Office when they respond to an incident for a resident. They will even dial the number for you if you are unable to do so. Please do not think someone else should do this for you. And please don't feel embarrassed to make the call. Or do not feel like you are being a burden to the police. This is what they do every day. When they have all the information, it helps them do their job better. Believe me, the Sheriff's Office prefers to make a call to a victim of a past crime to tell them they recovered their stolen property or apprehended the bad guy. They like to deliver good news too! Let's hope it doesn't happen to you, but if it does, just make the call! The Sheriff's Office also advises us to call them to report any suspected car or home break-ins. They have a forensics unit that will dust for fingerprints, and check for DNA evidence. If they are willing to go to such extreme to catch these perpetrators, we should at least call them to report even the most insignificant crime.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's non-emergency number is 941-316-1201. Keep it handy and use it for non-emergencies.