

## Neighborhood Safety- City of Allen Police Department Update 2009

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the Allen Police to review neighborhood safety issues. Sergeant Felty, of the Allen Police Department's Community Relations Department, discussed the announcement that Allen was ranked as the 9th safest city in the United States. This is quite an accomplishment for a city that has seen so much growth and changes in the past two decades. As you know, reports like this make everyone proud of our community. In addition, this helps communities maintain their property value, which is wonderful considering the current economic status.

The Allen Police Department credits communities involved with safety programs including Crime Watch programs with helping deter crime. All residents should contact the police department for any suspicious activities (214-509-4321). Also, Stacy Ridge residents have the added value of the neighborhood directory to contact neighbors when anything suspicious occurs and to send alerts as needed thru the communications committee.

Despite the good news, there is some bad news in the start of 2009, crime statistics across the board have increased. Most alarming is the increased incidents of home burglaries and theft from vehicles. Recently, the home burglaries have resulted from kicked-in back doors during the day when residents have not been home. Sergeant Felty has the following advice to help deter criminals in our neighborhood.

- Consider locking fence gates
- Keep garage door(s) closed when not in use
- Keep window blinds/curtains closed
- Keep valuables in non-predictable hidden locations: valuable jewelry not in jewelry box on top of dresser, lap tops stored out of sight, etc.
- Lock up paperwork with Identity Information
- Consider re-enforcing locks on all doors
- Set Alarm system even when home (although alarms might be a deterrent, most criminals can still enter and leave the site before police respond)
- Keep an eye out for neighbors and report suspicious activities to the police department (911 or non-emergency 214-509-4321)
- Park cars in garage
- If cars are out, lock the doors and take all valuables out, even during the day

Residents are invited to attend training for the Citizens Police Academy, which enables the Police department to have additional help and patrols for our neighborhoods. For more information, call the Community Relations Unit at 972.678.2500.