



Prevent Porch Package Theft

When having packages delivered to your home, beware of “porch pirating” – when a thief steals delivered packages from your doorstep or porch. Thieves can follow delivery trucks, watching for prime targets, or simply see an unattended package and grab it.

These thieves commonly strike during working hours as many homes are empty at that time. Have your packages delivered to a location where they can be received in person, such as a friend or relative’s house. If possible, consider having your package delivered to your workplace. When making a purchase online, if the retailer provides the option, choose a specific delivery time when you will be home. If purchasing from a larger retailer, consider having your package delivered to a local store for pick-up.

Take advantage of delivery alerts so you can be notified when a package arrives at your home. If you are not available to pick it up, ask a trusted neighbor to take your package inside for safekeeping. When possible, request that the delivery company hold your package at their closest pick-up facility until you can pick it up.

You might be able to ask the shipper to require a signature confirmation of delivery in order to prevent packages being left when no one is home to sign for them.

If possible, provide delivery instructions so packages can be left out of sight from your yard or the road, such as on a back porch. Have packages delivered to a post office box if available. Have a neighbor or house sitter check for your packages.

If you don't have anyone to retrieve your packages while you are gone for the day, employ a high-quality doorbell video camera that captures the front of your property and the street as well as an additional camera to catch and side doors and perhaps the rear yard.

Ask your Neighborhood Watch group to help keep an eye out. Have you started a Neighborhood Watch on your block? If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you are already a member of a Neighborhood Watch Block. However you have have friends or family in the Village of Skokie who are not. Connecting with your neighbors is a great way to foster open communication about the community and provide additional security to your home. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit for more details at 847/982-5922 or richard.wilken@skokie.org

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**See something? Concerned about it? Report it.
Call the Tip Line at (847) 933-TIPS (8477) 24-hours a day**



Firearm Responsibility Begins in the Home

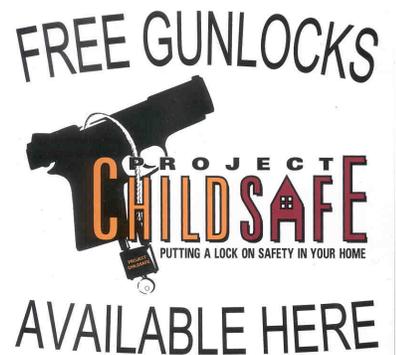
According to the FBI, there has been a 61% increase in background checks for prospective gun buyers from 2019 to 2020. According to the Illinois State Police, FOID card applications are up over 500%. With that marked increase in gun ownership there will be a much larger number of guns in our community. With that ownership comes a great responsibility to safely keep and store that weapon.

The decision to own a firearm is a personal matter. As a firearm owner, you are responsible for knowing how to properly transport, handle and secure your firearms in your home. Keeping a firearm to defend yourself or your family makes no sense if that firearm puts your family at risk.

- All firearm owners in Illinois, unless exempted by statute, must have a valid FOID card to own and possess firearms.
- Transported firearms, unless the owner has a valid Concealed Carry permit, should be transported 1. Unloaded with magazines out of the magazine well; 2. Enclosed in a case; 3. By persons with a valid FOID card.
- Unloaded firearms should be secured with a firearm locking device to make them inoperable or in locked firearm safe. NEVER STORE FIREARMS IN A VEHICLE. Simply hiding it in a location that you think is inaccessible to others just isn't enough.
- Store ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms and out of the reach of children or other at-risk individuals.
- Always check firearms carefully and completely to be sure they are still unloaded when removing them from storage. If you own a firearm and feel uncomfortable with your ability to lock it up safely or store it securely away from unauthorized or at-risk persons living with you or visiting you, please reconsider your ownership of that firearm.
- Treat all firearms as if they were loaded. Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and keep fingers off the trigger
- Educate your children about firearm safety:

STOP! Don't Touch! Run Away! Tell a Trusted Grown-Up!

FREE Gun Locks, provided by Project Safe, are available at the Skokie Police Department front desk.



**See something? Concerned about it? Report it.
Text 'Skokie' and your tip to 847411 24-hours a day**

Simple Tips for Purse and Wallet Safety

- Carry purses, portfolios or briefcases in a manner that allows you to let them go in order to prevent injury if accosted. Straps placed across your shoulder, around your neck or wrapped around your waist have caused injuries because women could not free themselves during a purse snatch.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and carry your purse or pocketbook clasp toward you, close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow as if it were a football. If there is a long strap, wrap it around the bag.
- If someone attempts to snatch your purse or pocketbook, let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved. When dining out, the only place for your purse should be your lap or using a purse hanger on the table in front of you. The back of a chair is an easy target for a thief. Never carry a wallet in a rear pocket; use a front trouser or an inside coat pocket.
- Be particularly aware of your purse/wallet in crowded situations, such as rush-hour trains and buses. If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible. Beware of arguments or commotions designed to distract you while your pocket or purse is being picked.
- Minimize the amount of money, credit cards and valuables you carry by only taking items that are necessary for the day. Divide money between your purse/wallet and pockets. Consider carrying your keys on your person separate from your identification.

Snow Parking E-Blast

Did you know that you can receive email alerts notifying you that alternate-side parking is in effect after a significant snowfall? By subscribing, you can avoid being ticketed for violating alternate-side parking regulations. You will receive a notification email on the first morning that the program is in effect. To subscribe, visit www.skokie.org and click on the "Subscribe to SkokieNews" link in the top right-hand corner. The alternate-side parking program ensures that streets are clear for emergency vehicles during a snow accumulation of two inches or more. Besides subscribing for email alerts, there are numerous ways to learn if alternate-side parking is in effect:

- Call the Snow Hotline at 847/675-7669
- Listen to 1660 AM Skokie Radio
- Visit www.skokie.org and look for a notice near the top of the home page
- Tune to SkokieVision cable and look for the crawl message at the bottom of the screen (Channel 25 on RCN systems, Channel 17 on Comcast systems)
- Listen for the emergency siren that sounds at 7 a.m. to signal that the program is in effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. that day. For more information on the alternate-side parking program that goes into effect after two inches of snow, visit www.skokie.org.

Ruse Burglars Aren't Taking a Holiday This Year

Unfortunately, ruse burglars have been at it again in the Chicago-land area. In typical fashion, these burglars work in pairs or small groups to distract elderly homeowners including the claim they are there to test the water for COVID-19 contamination.

Whether the ruse is testing the water, the gas meter, the cable connection or the like, our elderly neighbors are being victimized due to their good nature, trusting demeanor, and the fact that some will see them as an easy target. Whatever the flavor is, the ruse is the same: distract the homeowners so a partner(s) can slip in to steal the goods. Similar reported ruses in the past have included offers to repair gutters, settle property line disputes about fences, false emergencies at a neighbor's property, to talk about utilities in the yard or offers for landscaping services. The goal is always the same, to distract or draw the homeowners away from their valuables.

It's important that residents reach out to any elderly family, friends, or neighbors that live in the area. Please educate them on this subject.

Village of Skokie employees will be driving clearly marked Village of Skokie Public Works vehicles, often bright yellow trucks and vans, and will NOT have a need to enter a private residence. They will not be checking water at individual residences for contamination of any kind.

To prevent the chances of becoming a ruse burglary victim, remember the following safety tips:

- Do not allow anyone in your home unless you know them personally or it is a scheduled appointment.
- Install a video doorbell camera that records the driveway and any entrances to your home.
- If a solicitor comes to your residence, take notice of the vehicle they are driving (make, model, color, type) as well as their attire and physical characteristics.
- If you choose to speak with a solicitor or utility worker, never leave your front door unlocked or unattended.
- A legitimate utility or government worker will never object if you ask for ID. You may verify with the utility company or local government agency if the individual was sent to your residence. Call 9-1-1 if needed and ask law enforcement to verify their identity.
- If utility companies or the Village of Skokie Public Works Department has scheduled work that will interrupt your services, they will notify you prior.



Share these tips with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues. If you feel you were the victim of a ruse burglary or if you have seen suspicious vehicles and/or subject approaching elderly neighbors, call 911 to report these incidents to the Skokie Police Department. Be ready to provide the offender's vehicle and physical descriptions. There is no shame in being victimized. If the crime is not reported, we may not be able to help the victim.

Neighborhood Watch Beat Officer Program

Skokie Police Officers in the Patrol Division are assigned permanent Beats, or areas of patrol within the Village, on a yearly basis, in an effort to get to know the residents in those areas. The goals of these long-term assignments are to build positive relationships, develop courses of action, proactively address issues and with individuals, businesses, and groups within these diverse areas of the Village. You can find the Police Beat you are located in by visiting the Police Beat Program Map at skokiepolice.org



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@skokiepolice



7300 Niles Center Road • Skokie IL 60077
Main/Non-emergency: 847/982-5900
Officer Richard Wilken/Crime Prevention Unit
Direct: 847/982-5922 • Richard.Wilken@skokie.org
24-Hr. Crime Tip Hot-line: 847/933-TIPS
Text-A-Tip: Text "Skokie" and your tip to 847411
Email: crime.prevention@skokie.org
Emergency: 9-1-1
www.skokiepolice.org
[@skokiepolice](https://twitter.com/skokiepolice)