

Community Update July 2014

Dear Coppergate Neighbors,

Now that we're well into summer, we'd like to wish you a happy and safe summer season! If you haven't done so yet, please be sure to check out the new landscaping at the front entrance of the community! The plants are settling in and flourishing! Summer also brings warmer weather, which means many of us will be spending more time outside and possibly using our grills to make light and tasty summer meals. Hopefully you'll find the grilling safety tips below useful. This is also the time of year when many families go on vacation. Below are some helpful hints on how to "vacation-proof" your home if you plan to go away for an extended period of time. Let's take care of our neighbors and neighborhood by looking out for one another and our fellow neighbors' property. If you see any suspicious activity in the neighborhood or witness acts of vandalism, please do the right thing and report it to the police and/or The CAM Team immediately. We need to work together to keep our community a safe and enjoyable place to live. Thank you!

-The Coppergate Estates Homeowners Association Board

****How to vacation-proof your house:**

--Background Information:

*Most communities across the United States will experience a 10-18% increase in home burglaries during the months of June, July, and August, with most tending to occur in August.

*The majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work.

*Burglars tend to choose unoccupied homes with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes.

--Practical Tips for protecting your home:

*Notify the police if you're going to be gone longer than a week, as they will often schedule extra drive bys.

*Have a friend or neighbor collect mail, newspapers, and fliers.

*Put a few lights on timers so the lights go on and off at various times.

*Double-check that door and window locks work properly and are secured when you leave your house.

*Tell someone where you're going and leave a contact number where you can be reached.

--For even more helpful hints, visit the following website:

<http://www.hasbrouck-heights.com/house/info/vacation.shtml>

****Grill Safety:**

- Propane and charcoal grills should only used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat build-up from the grill racks and trays below.
- If you're using a charcoal grill, never add starter fluid to the fire.
- If you're using a propane grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using the grill.
- For more grill safety tips, visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/grilling/grilling-safety-tips> and <http://www.hpba.org/consumers/barbecue/general-grilling-safety>