



# Caldwell Crossings Home Owners Association



News You Can Use

Visit Your website: [caldwellcrossings.org](http://caldwellcrossings.org)

**No one stays in a state of fear of being burgled, robbed, etc., but we can try to use common sense for prevention. Some of the following things may be useful – some over the top.**

**We are not in a high crime neighborhood, fortunately, but things will happen.**

**Common sense is the key. Don't make things easy for those who might be thieves.**

### **THIRTEEN THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU**

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it..
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often

access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.

### **8 MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:**

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again... If he doesn't hear

## Thank You Vern Hydorn

As many already know, Vern Hydorn stepped down as President and Member of our Board of Directors. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his leadership in the infancy of our Association. Vern took on the responsibility of Board President because of his desire to see our community remain a neighborhood we can all be proud of. Some of his accomplishments and initiatives are this news letter and our website which facilitate an active communication among neighbors, residents, Board of Directors and Architectural Review Committee. Vern encouraged residents to get involved, to "volunteer". The "Block Captain" and "Advisory Board" programs are examples of his efforts. The emailing of our newsletter as well as emails alerting all to problems or incidents is yet another example of his leadership initiative. Vern also developed our annual budget. He kept careful tabs on the expenditures to ensure we "stayed " on budget and that all funds were correctly accounted for in the process.

For all his efforts and dedication, we say THANK YOU VERN.



**It is that time of year again** - tax season! You will start getting all types of tax related documents in the mail or electronically through e-mail. So, how do you organize all this tax paperwork?

- **CREATE A FILING SYSTEM**

Create three folders for ease of filing your tax documents:  
INCOME, DEDUCTIONS, RECEIPTS/RECORDS.

As you get documents in the mail, put them into these separate folders.  
**INCOME FOLDER.**

Make a list of all your income. The most obvious form you will have in this folder is your W2. Many people will have only one W2.

However, you will also get a W2 form for income from certain part-time [jobs](#) you held, including substitute teaching. Income besides these wages will be reported on a 1099. Companies are required to send out a 1099 if the [earnings](#) were over \$600, including freelance writing or other contracting jobs. If you self-employed, there are tax documents that will be included in this folder.

Track and list all your investments. Income also includes dividends and interest income and you should receive a 1099-DIV or 1099-INT for this income.

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**DEDUCTIONS FOLDER.**

Make a list of all your donations. All charitable donations are tax deductible. Keep the receipts in the folder titled, **RECEIPTS/RECORDS**

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it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

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# Computer Corner

**C**omputing With A *Personal Touch* 205-937-3472 offering in house one on

instruction on the use of software, installation and trouble shooting, home networking, Steve Goldman

CWAPT@att.net

Wi-Fi Security



one

## Some Steps to Taking Care of Your Laptop.

More and more of us are forsaking the trusty old desktop for the more portable, fully functional laptops. In our zeal to move to the laptop there are some steps that we should take to ensure that our new best friend stays healthy. Here are a few things you can do:

1. If you are planning on running your Laptop moon AC power for a while, remove the battery and work without it. This avoids unnecessary heat within your laptop.
2. Don't eat, especially don't drink, anything near the laptop. Spilling liquids onto your keyboard can short out the motherboard which pretty much kills your laptop. A new motherboard may cost almost as much as a new laptop.
3. If you use your laptop more often than not at your desk, consider plugging in a full size monitor. Most external monitors used with a laptop connect via a 15-pin connection, also known as VGA. To use this, users simply need to plug the monitor cable into the VGA port and switch the laptop's display mode to external--most laptops do this using the "Fn" key and an "F" function key.
4. Clean the keyboard. Shut down the laptop. Keep the laptop open, turn the laptop upside down and very gently tap on the back of the laptop until all the crumbs, paper pieces and so on fall out. Use a can of compressed to blow out whatever is still stuck.
5. Clean the screen. Use a dry, microfiber cloth which you can buy at a computer store or photo store. Wipe in circular motion but do it very gently. If you have to make your own cleaning solution by mixing distilled water and white vinegar. Use a 50/50 solution. Pour this into a spray bottle. Be certain to turn the laptop off. Spray the mixture onto the microfiber

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6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in

## Board of Directors



**Jim Moon 205-999-0761**

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**Theresa Tkacik 205-482-5802 Tkacikt@bellsouth.net**

**Steve goldman 205-995-8282 sgoldman3320@att.net\***

\* the Board of Directors has appointed Steve Goldman treasurer to fill the remaining term of office for Vern Hydron



We just received word from the Insurance adjuster that the entrance monument is covered. The Association's deductible is \$500. The claim has been approved and Earl Gibson will do the repair. The recreation of the limestone logo will take about three weeks to complete. After that, the rest of the sign will be repaired.

## February is Hearth Month. Is heart disease a concern for you or someone in your family? February is National Heart

in



Month. I would like to offer you the opportunity to view a message from Dr. Tamara Sachs who specializes in Internal Medicine, Functional Medicine and Integrative Care. The focus of this informative DVD is cardiovascular health, disease and wellness. If you are interested in viewing the 30 minute DVD, call me at 9103563 or email me at [pennington245@bellsouth.net](mailto:pennington245@bellsouth.net) to check it out of my library for a few days.

**Gail Pennington Juice Plus+ Representative**

[www.gpenningtonjuiceplus.com](http://www.gpenningtonjuiceplus.com)

Gail is a resident of Caldwell Crossings



**What do you have to say? Send us your written thoughts on virtually any subject you feel passionate about. Have your own business? Let your neighbors know about it. Have a skill that someone may find of use? Let your neighbors know about it. Send to [sgoldman3320@att.net](mailto:sgoldman3320@att.net)**



Never too early to get your home ready for the freshness of spring

I am **Vickie Brooks**, a resident of Caldwell Crossings for over five years.. I am an independent consultant for Scentsy I spent a great deal of time and effort searching for an effective product which would greet my family and friends with a delightful fragrance as they enter my home; Thanks to my friends, I discovered Scentsy, Wickless Candles. My friends went on and on about how wonderful their homes smelled and about how long the fragrance lasted. No other product offered me that "Enveloping Fragrance Feeling" when I walked into my home. Well, at least not until Scentsy. These candles deliver exactly what they say they will. They are flameless, smoot free, lead free, and they keep your home smelling GREAT!!!

When most people think of Scentsy they think of full-size warmers and wax bars. It doesn't stop there. Scentsy offers a variety of products to fit every lifestyle and budget. Scentsy products start at just \$3. Visit my website and learn more:

<https://vickbrooks.scentsy.us/Home>.



I am **David Livingston**, a resident of Caldwell Crossings for the past 7 years. I enjoy my yard work and thought that I would share this enjoyment with my neighbors by offering my services in maintaining their lawns. I would love to do those outdoor chores such as mowing, edging, and weed eating that perhaps you do not wish to tackle. At only **\$25.00** a yard. For more information call me **902-5150**

**B** **righter Streets are Coming.** The BOD worked with Alabama Power to develop and implement a plan to install additional lights in our community. Work should begin within a month or so. More information will follow.

