Many Lawrence students and residents leave town during the holidays for vacations, or to visit friends and relatives. Unfortunately, some return to find their dorm, apartment, or house has been burglarized. Lawrence Police Officers on patrol in the neighborhoods will be paying extra attention to residential areas to help curb this problem, and we need your help!

**Prevention is the most effective deterrent to becoming a crime victim.** Whenever possible, remove the opportunity for a thief to steal your belongings. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Take valuables with you when leaving for long vacations.** Storing items with someone that will be home through the holidays is another option. Although inconvenient, these are the most effective ways to avoid being a victim.
- **Consider having someone house-sit while you are gone.** This will give your home a lived-in appearance. If this is not possible, have someone frequently stop by your home to remove sales flyers and other postings that may be on your door.
- **Stop all mail and newspaper deliveries.** When ordering items that will potentially be delivered during your vacation, have them delivered to an alternate address or arrange for them to be delivered after your return.
- **Make certain that credit cards, blank checks, cash, jewelry and other similar valuables are well hidden in your home or taken with you.**
- **Leave shades and drapes in their usual positions.** Use timers to turn on and off lights, televisions, or radios to give the appearance someone is home. Encourage your neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway or assigned parking spot.
- **Remove any keys which you may have hidden outside your residence near the doors.** Thieves may “look under the flower pot” for keys to your home.
- **Do not post on social media that you are on vacation or out of town.**
- **Arrange for someone to remove snow from your driveway or sidewalk while you are gone.**
- **Inventory your belongings before you leave.** Marking items, recording their brand names and serial numbers, and photographing them could be very valuable in the event they are stolen.

**The Lawrence Police Department encourages citizens to CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY when observing suspicious behavior or detecting a possible burglary.**

For non-emergency situations or crimes not in progress, call the non-emergency dispatch number at 832-7509, but for situations where a crime is potentially in progress, CALL 911.
Tips for helping snow removal operations:

1. Please do not park vehicles on the streets. Park your vehicles in the driveway and don’t allow vehicles to extend into the roadway. When vehicles are parked on narrow streets, on hills or on both sides of the street, the City may not be able to clear snow from the street.

2. Please place basketball goals, hockey goals, skateboard ramps or other structures at least 10 feet back from the street to allow for proper snow removal. The City is not responsible for damage which may occur to these items if left in the street or right-of-way.

3. Be alert and drive with caution. Remember that winter storms create slick road conditions. Maintain safe distances between vehicles and decrease your normal driving speeds to allow for additional time to stop.

4. Expect some delays. Allow plenty of extra driving time for planned trips, errands and appointments. On average, it can take 12 hours after the end of a storm to complete a first pass on residential streets. This can be much longer for heavy snowfalls or ice accumulations. Be patient.

5. Stay back at least 50-100’ from the rear of plow trucks so the rock salt they spread will not hit your vehicle.

6. Please be aware, with heavy snow falls, plowing may create snow windrows in driveways.

7. Some trucks can plow multiple lanes of snow at one time with wing plows. Avoid passing or driving beside plow trucks - especially to their right (passenger) side.

8. When shoveling your driveway, do not place the snow from your driveway back into the street.

Snow on sidewalks:

Per city code (16-115), property owners are responsible for the removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 48 hours after the snow or ice stops accumulating.

lawrenceks.org/snow-removal

Holiday trash & recycling schedule:

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day
AND
Tuesday, January 1
New Year’s Day

Trash, recycling, & yard waste collection routes will be delayed by one day. Tues. routes will be completed on Wed., Wed. on Thurs., Thurs. on Fri., and Fri. on Sat.

City offers loan program for emergency repairs:

Emergency & furnace loans available for income-qualified Lawrence homeowners

For emergency situations, the city offers an emergency loan program that can provide up to $5,000 for emergency repairs that eliminate immediate hazards to health and safety or to repair damage to the structure likely to cause health and safety hazards.

The furnace loan program can provide up to $5,000 for the replacement/addition of existing heating and/or cooling source with approved energy-efficient appliances.

Both programs require a zero interest, zero payment mortgage to be placed on the property. The loan amount is due in full when the applicant is no longer the owner/occupant.

Please contact Community Development staff at (785) 832-7700 for additional terms and conditions, or visit lawrenceks.org/pds/housing_programs to download an application.