

# *Eastern Gardens*

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September 6, 2011

To: Members of Eastern Gardens Cooperative, Inc.

Subject: Security Awareness

Dear Members:

During a recent executive meeting by the Board of Directors, the issue of Security Awareness was discussed by both the Board and its management staff. This is to advise the Membership of recent events concerning security awareness, that is, the burglary of two downstairs apartment units facing Robertson Ave and Eastern Ave, both burglaries consisted of an intruder breaking their windows, reaching in from the outside and grabbing items that were near enough for them to reach. Though the intruder never entered their residence and no physical harm was done to the members it still was a very unsettling. Calls (911) were placed to the Sheriff Department in both incidents and reports filed. Management/maintenance was contacted and repairs were conducted to the windows.

In response to these intrusions, the Board reviewed various options, including a few suggestions from its members, such as bars on all downstairs windows, cameras for the entire complex, to even private security patrols, all of which Eastern Gardens is not able to afford. Often times, it's not expensive alarm systems or the sight of police that deters burglars; it's the small, simple things residents do that make the would-be thieves move on. Therefore, the Board in the interest of Safety and Security for its membership and in an effort to deter further incidents of this nature within our community, the Board has decided to take action on the following:

1. The Board has instructed management to trim all shrubbery in the common areas, specifically those in front of all downstairs apartment unit windows to a maximum height of 3 feet. This includes plastic and/or artificial shrubbery and flowers that are of a height greater than 3 feet). The purpose for trimming the shrubbery, which was recommended by the Sheriff's department, is to discourage or deter would-be intruders from crouching or hiding behind the shrubbery. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED**, safety and security will take precedence. If you desire privacy or energy savings the Board recommends that you, i) Draw your blinds, curtains or shades especially at night, or, ii) at your expense, purchase sun screens. **NOTE:** Don't forget to submit a letter to the Board for approval if you decide to purchase sun screens.

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2. To discourage would-be intruders the Board recommends that members, at your expense, can purchase a private alarm system for the apartment unit. There are many businesses that sell or install these systems from professional to self home kits sold at Home Depot. **NOTE:** Don't forget to submit a letter to the Board for approval if you decide to exercise this option.

The Do's and Don'ts to the installation of alarm system are:

**DON'T**

- a) The alarm system cannot be intrusive, that is, it cannot be hard wired, and you cannot drill into the ceilings or windows and door frames.
- b) There can be no audible alarm bell on the outside of the apartment unit.
- c) The system cannot disturb or disrupt your neighbor's peace and quite.

**DO**

- d) Submit a letter to the Board for approval to install the alarm system with the specifications of the system, such as, type, self-help or professional installation.
- e) The purchase, maintenance and responsibility are at the member's expense.
- f) Consider using motion or laser detection.
- g) Continue to **Report Emergencies, such as, suspicious behavior, theft or burglary to the Sheriff's Department by dialing 911 and for non-emergencies call 874-5115.** For community awareness, also inform management so we can alert other members. Whether or not the situation is a false alarm, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Management has already taken a few precautionary measures, such as, installing additional lighting on the south side parking area and trimmed the shrubbery around lamp posts and other areas.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation and are asking that you trust your elected volunteer Board while we continue to monitor and work to resolve these issues on behalf of Eastern Gardens and its membership. And as always, in an emergency that threatens human life or personal property and demands immediate attention, that is, Medical, Burglary, Fire, Theft and Assault – **DIAL 911**

Any questions or concerns, please contact the Board by submitting a letter and dropping it into the Board's mail box located inside the business office.

Sincerely,  
Eastern Gardens Board of Directors

*James Patrick*

*Kathy Slotterback*

*Donna Schmelz*

*Ed Healy*

*Chris Manning*

*Diane McKee*