

November 2013

Off Campus Street Beat

Off Campus & Commuter Communities | 215.951.1532 | offcampusliving@lasalle.edu

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A Time To Be Thankful

I know I've said it before, but I cannot believe how quickly this semester is flying by!

We survived Halloween, and like most of you, I cannot wait for the wonderful meal that awaits me on Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving provides us with an opportunity to remember to be thankful for many of the things we take for granted. This year, I am especially thankful to be at La Salle University. I've gotten the opportunity to meet some wonderful students, to interact with neighbors, and to explore such a vibrant and fun city. Above all, I am especially thankful that all of you have been so welcoming and open to getting to know me and working with me.

As I've talked about all semester long, safety continues to be an incredibly important priority. The upcoming Thanksgiving and winter holiday breaks provides you all with an opportunity to go home and spend time with family and loved ones. Unfortunately, this is also a time when home break-ins take place. Included in this packet is a light timer. Light timers are a wonderful safety measure; you can program the timer to illuminate a room for a period of time, giving the illusion that your home is not vacant. If you plan to depart from your home for a period of time over the next couple of months, I strongly suggest taking advantage and utilizing the light timer. Another effective way to ensure the safety of your home is by informing your neighbors (if you have an established relationship) of your departure so they can watch your home and notify you of any suspicious activity.

On the second page of this newsletter you'll find a letter from our Security and Safety Department. The letter provides you with some safety tips and suggestions in order to ensure the safety and security of your home.

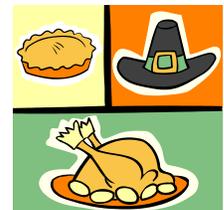
As always, please feel free to contact me via email (velez@lasalle.edu) or phone (215.951.1532) or TiRease Holmes, the Director of Off Campus & Commuter Communities via email (holmest@lasalle.edu) or phone (215.951.1916).

-Dennis Velez, Off Campus Community Coordinator.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



CAOS Corner

Upcoming Event:

CAOS Potluck

November 26th | 12:30

Commuter Lounge

Bring a dish & enjoy a dish



Spotlight On:



5629 20th Street: 1st place winners in the Halloween House Decorating Contest
Men's cross country & women's soccer for winning the A-10 Championships!

To: La Salle University Students

From: La Salle Security and Safety Department and Community Development



Subject: **OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING - HOME SECURITY**

Here is some information along with a few tips and precautions that should be used by all students residing in off-campus housing this holiday season. *Also, please remember, if you ever need assistance, the La Salle Security and Safety Department may be reached at 215-951-1300. If it is an emergency, dial "911" for Philadelphia Police or Fire Department assistance.*

Please Check Your Doors and Locks - A sturdy lock on a flimsy door or flimsy lock on a sturdy door is as effective as locking your car door with the windows down. You need both a solid lock and a sturdy door to deter any illegal entrance into your home, and everyone that lives in your home should have their own key. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough. Additionally, consider having a peephole or wide-angle viewer installed in all main entry doors. This way you can see who is outside without opening the door. Don't be afraid to ask your landlord to install or reimburse you for installing these items.

Windows - On double hung windows, install key locks or "pin" your windows. To "pin," drill small holes through both window frames from the inside then insert a nail so that it slips in and out through both frames. This is a simple and economical way to secure a window. When you wish to open the window, simply remove the nail. Basement windows should have grills or grates installed.

Window Coverings - Simple blinds or curtains may be a deterrent to thieves who are planning to rob a house. Keep your blinds closed especially at night and when you are away.

Please think now about what to do if you were to get locked out of your house. It is not advised to leave a window unlocked or keep a hidden key somewhere outside. Naturally, if you can get in without a key, then so can a burglar.

Did you know that in almost half of all completed residential burglaries thieves simply enter the home through unlocked doors or crawl through unlocked windows? For a small amount of time and money you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Lighting - It is common knowledge that thieves hate bright lights. Consider installing outside overhead lights and keep them on at night; or if you think the electrical cost is too much, ask your landlord to install or reimburse you for outdoor motion sensor lights. Also, if you will be leaving your home for a period of time such as semester break or holidays, consider acquiring plug-in timers set to go on and off at various times throughout the house. (The Off Campus Communities Office has provided you with one)

Pruning - Please remember to keep your yard and lawn free of trash and trim shrubbery so that it doesn't hide windows and doors. Cut back tree limbs that a thief could use to climb to an upper-level window.

Alarms - Alarms are a good investment, especially if you have many valuables in your home. You should check with several companies before you buy so that you may decide what level of security fits your needs. Consult with your landlord on how to install a system that works for you.

Renter's Insurance - Although it is an additional expense, it may be worthwhile for you to invest in renter's insurance to protect your personal property against theft. If you are already covered under your parent's property insurance, then you may not need to purchase additional insurance.

Mail - If you plan to go away, please consider having your mail held at the local post-office at 6150 N. Broad St. The Post Office may be reached at 215-924-8858.

Burglars Can Be Dangerous People...

Burglars may commit crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and assault, especially if someone coming home surprises them.

If something looks questionable such as a slit screen, a broken window, or an open door, for example then please use common sense and **DO NOT GO IN. Stay outside and call the police (911)** and wait for them to arrive.

If you are home and you think you hear someone breaking in, leave as safely as you can, and then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police. Don't hang up; stay on the line with the police dispatcher until police arrive.

If you share a home with other students, sit down as a group and discuss what is needed to improve your house security. Develop your own in-house security procedures so that everyone knows what is expected of each other. Everyone in your residence should make a list of their valuables (TVs, stereos, computers, jewelry, etc.) and store the list where you'll be able to get it in the event you become a victim. Record serial numbers and describe each item i.e. make, model, color and any unique identifiers that may assist police in identifying your property. Consider using a UV pen as an identifying mark on your property.

If you plan to be away from your house for several days or a long break, consider taking your valuables with you until you return. For larger items, consider leaving them with a friend or neighbor you trust. If you can, leave a contact phone number with someone you trust, just in case something happens while you're away.

Naturally, the holidays are a time for rest and relaxation. If you or any of your housemates stay for Thanksgiving break, please remember the good neighbor policy *never* goes on holiday. All of the same rules and regulations will be in effect during this, and all, University holidays. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact La Salle Security at 215-951-1300, or Dennis Velez, the Off-Campus Community Coordinator, at 215-951-1532.

Have a wonderful and safe break!

Arthur Grover
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