



# Southern Oaks

## *Neighborhood Watch*

### Garage Sale Safety Tips

**SO HOA has hired an OPD Office to patrol during the Garage Sale.**

- ⇒ **Keep a watch.** Do not go inside and leave your merchandise unattended. Someone should be at or near the checkout table at all times, with another person walking around, straightening items and talking to shoppers.
- ⇒ **Greet everyone who walks up.** Make sure they know you have seen them.
- ⇒ **Keep just enough cash on hand to make change.** Put extra money in the house.
- ⇒ **Keep larger, higher-priced items near the garage.**
- ⇒ **Do not accept large bills.**
- ⇒ **Keep cash you have been given laying out while you make change.** This will keep con artists from trying to tell you they gave you a larger bill than they actually did.
- ⇒ **Keep your cell phone or home phone close by.**
- ⇒ **Do not let strangers come in your house for any reason.** If someone needs to use the restroom, direct them to the nearest gas station or grocery store.
- ⇒ **Keep the sale in plain sight.** Set items outside the garage and on out toward the sidewalk or street. This keeps you from getting trapped in a place where others can't see.
- ⇒ **Lock up.** Keep the front door to the house locked, as well as the door from the garage — and make sure you have the key.
- ⇒ **Post a sign with your rules.** Only cash accepted, all sales are final, etc.
- ⇒ **Get help with young kids.** It's too easy to get distracted with little ones around. Get a babysitter or neighbor to watch them, or take turns with others involved in the sale.