Dear Neighbor,

Unfortunately, we live in a time when crime cannot be taken lightly. Every day we read headlines and hear stories reminding us our streets are not as safe as they used to be. It pays to be on your guard, but that doesn't mean you need to be afraid—just aware.

All you need to remember is that there are certain necessary precautions you can take to minimize your chances of being a crime victim.

Inside this brochure are helpful crime prevention tips. Also included is a home security survey to help you determine just how well your home is protected against prowlers. Taking a few moments to complete the survey will make you more aware of your potential to become a crime victim—and show you what you can do to avoid it.

I hope you find the information useful. If I can be of additional help to you on this issue or any other concern, please do not hesitate to call my office.

Remember, we should never take being safe for granted.

Sincerely,

Margaret Markey
Member of Assembly

Assemblywoman Margaret Markey

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When walking

- Be aware of your surroundings. After exiting a vehicle at night, look to see whether you are being followed. If you see someone suspicious, cross the street. If necessary, crisscross from one side to another. If you feel you are being followed, don't be afraid to run. If you see a house with lights on, knock on the door and ask for help.
- Maintain a secure grip on your purse. Do not carry it by the handle or let it hang off your shoulder. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of the elbow, holding the purse firmly against your body.
- Walk near the curb and avoid passing close to shrubbery, dark doorways and other concealed places.
- Avoid shortcuts, especially through backyards, school yards, parking lots and alleyways.
- A good rule to follow is "only carry as much money as you can afford to lose."

Updated 1/14

Safety Tips for Seniors

Courtesy of Assemblywoman Margaret Markey

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www.assembly.state.ny.us

When at home

- Women who live alone should list only their last names and initials in phone directories and on mailboxes.
- Be sure to lock doors in the day, even if you're home, or if you leave for a few minutes.
- Never open the door before asking visitors to identify themselves. This includes repair and delivery people, as well as police officers. Use the chain bolt when checking identification.
- Inside and outside lights give you a great deal of protection. Leave lights on at night, even when away from home. Change the location of lights periodically.
- Leave a light on near the door you will use when you return home after dark – use timers. Have your key ready so you can open the door immediately.
- If a stranger asks to use your phone, offer to make the call instead. Never let a stranger enter your home.
- If you notice a door or window was forced open or broken while you were out, do not enter your house. Use a neighbor's phone immediately to call police and wait outside until they arrive.

When driving

- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside the car before getting in.
- When practical, travel on well-lit, populated streets. Keep windows closed and doors locked.
- Put your purse in the glove compartment or on the floor.
- Keep your car in gear at traffic lights and stop signs. If your safety is threatened, blow the horn and drive away as soon as possible.
- If you believe you are being followed, don't drive into your driveway or park on a deserted street. Pull over to the curb where there are people, and let the car pass you. If the car still follows you, drive to the nearest place for help – a gas station or police station.
- If you are followed into your driveway at night, stay in your car with the doors locked until you know the driver's intent. Sound the horn to get the attention of neighbors or to scare the other driver off.
- When parking at night, choose a place that will be well lit when you return. Check for loiterers before leaving the car.
- Never leave the car keys in the ignition, even if you only park for a short time. Lock the car and take the keys with you.

Home security survey

Please take this survey to identify security problems in your home.

Doors

Yes	No	
❏	❏	Do doors have 180 degree peep-holes?
❏	❏	Are locks that can be opened from inside at least 40 inches from the glass?
❏	❏	Are entrance doors solid with dead bolts?
❏	❏	Are outside hinge pins non-removable?
❏	❏	Do doors securely fit door jambs?

Door Locks

❏	❏	Is door jamb tightly fastened?
❏	❏	Is strike plate fastened to door jamb?
❏	❏	Does bolt extend enough into strike plate?
❏	❏	Have locks been re-keyed since you moved in?

Windows

❏	❏	Have double-hung windows been pinned?
❏	❏	Do metal windows have auxiliary locks?
❏	❏	Can windows left open for ventilation be secured?
❏	❏	Do basement windows have auxiliary locks?
❏	❏	Do curtains/drapes fully cover windows?
❏	❏	Is window air conditioner secured from the inside?

Garage

Yes	No	
❏	❏	Does the door close tightly?
❏	❏	Does the overhead door have a high-quality track padlock?
❏	❏	Do you keep overhead door closed and locked when not in use?
❏	❏	Do you remove vehicle keys when garage is locked?
❏	❏	Can garage light be turned on from inside the home?

Exterior

❏	❏	Are shrubs cut below window level and tree limbs above window level?
❏	❏	Is residence number visible from the street?
❏	❏	Can the mailbox be locked?
❏	❏	Are front and back doors well lit?
❏	❏	Are bicycles, mowers and ladders kept inside?

Vacations

❏	❏	Do you stop deliveries?
❏	❏	Do you set light timers?
❏	❏	Do you have your yard cared for?
❏	❏	Do you notify police?

Also ...

❏	❏	Do you belong to a "neighborhood watch" program?
❏	❏	Have you engraved, marked or photographed your property and put up security stickers?