



April 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Sherry Le, HOA Neighborhood Watch Chair

Who Doesn't Like A Good Deal?

What's the saying...someone's junk is someone else's treasure - yes indeed! With the Spring upon us, you will see more and more neighbors advertising Rummage / Yard / Garage Sales. I thought I would share some safety tips with everyone. Safety tips for a yard sale??? Yes, believe it or not - safety tips.

Remember this - signs posted outside or in and around the community for advertising are used to entice as many potential buyers to come to your sale. You want that! But you are also welcoming complete strangers on your property. So here are a few things to consider if you plan on participating in an upcoming sale:

- Never man (or woman) your sale alone. Ask a neighbor or friend to help you that day. I know when it's slow it can get pretty boring but when waves of people come in, it is difficult to make sure things (for sale and even not for sale) don't go walking away.
- Be cautious of accepting large bills (like \$100) especially for a \$5 item. They could be counterfeit. You can purchase one of those counterfeit markers (at Walmart or Amazon) to check the money if you are going to accept it. The last thing you want to do is take the cash to your bank and they say it's not real.
- I know it's called a Garage sale, but if you can avoid leaving your garage open and placing all your stuff outside the door and closing the door, you will avoid anyone walking away with something you had no intention of selling. More importantly, you avoid anyone from seeing what you have in the garage to come back and take at a later time.
- Never let strangers into your home. If they ask to use the restroom, please guide them to a more public place. If you have large items to sell that are inside your residence, I would strongly suggest you ask for help bringing that stuff out. Maybe even closest to the garage door so if you don't sell it the first day it will be easy to just push or drag back into the garage overnight for the next day.
- I like to say mark everything with a price upfront (of course it's always negotiable). If you don't have the time and can't mark each item, consider laying down a tarp or sheet or drawing a square with chalk on your driveway. Then for every item in that square or on that sheet you have one sign \$1 or \$5. Bigger items can easily be marked with a piece of tape and marker. This is also a way to cause less commotion when you have a rush of people that show up at the same time.
- It is always nice to be generous, but do not let anyone bully you into giving them something for nothing. There are plenty of worthy donation takers (like Good Shepherd, Monroe County Friends of Animals, etc.) that will put your treasures to good use.
- Your sale could generate a lot of traffic. Be mindful of small kids darting out from parked cars or people unfamiliar with our tight streets who become parking hazards. Have some extra patience as you welcome these people in to browse. If you are going to have a sale, you might want to mention it to your immediate neighbors so they know ahead of time that there might be times their driveway could get blocked.

If someone in your neighborhood is having a yard sale and you are not, be mindful of the tips I've posted before. Don't leave your doors unnecessarily unlocked. Don't leave your cars unlocked on the driveway. Don't leave your garage door open for everyone to see inside while they are driving by. And always keep your eyes and ears open for suspicious activity.