

## **Spring Cleaning shouldn't result in getting "Cleaned Out!"**

As the weather turns warmer and we hustle to tidy up around our homes before the heat of summer, let's pause a moment and consider our safety and security. Many communities hold Garage Sales during the spring as a way for some to turn one's trash into others treasure. Or perhaps items once having value now appear neglected in our closets, storage shed, or garage..... And why not sell them to recoup some monetary value that can now purchase something new and exciting!

If you plan on holding a garage sale or listing items for sale on a website or app, consider your prospective buyers. We have opportunists that use these sales as a way to "case" neighborhoods and homes for future burglary targets.

If you're hold a garage sale, be wary of persons who ask if you have items for sale that are not on display:

- Are you selling your guns? (They may be trying to find out if you own firearms – which is one of the most commonly sought items by burglars!)
- If you display jewelry, they may ask to see other items you own or know you own expensive pieces.

If you prefer to sell items on local sites such as Craigslist, Offer Up, or on Facebook use caution. One of the most important things to remember is to choose a public, well lit and populated area to meet buyers (or sellers if you are the buyer). Don't advertise where you live to maintain your privacy and security of your home.

May your spring time be one of enjoyment – don't let being a victim of a crime ruin it.

- Randy Klenosky, NWAC Crime Prevention Specialist.