

Safeguarding your **PROPERTY**

I know you don't see many articles from me being the Chief of your Department of Public Safety, and the reason being is so when I file an article I want to make sure you read it! There are a couple items I would like to bring to your member/communities attention.

Let's start with I hope everyone is enjoying their summer to the best of their ability. I would like to address the boat rack(s) and launches. As we should know there are quite a few boat racks and launches scattered around your community for your usage, so you can enjoy your lakes here. You do not have to transport your vessel all the time you choose to use the lakes what the association request of you is to go into the administration office and register the vessel with them for a low fee.

What I would like to request of all the members here in Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. is to create a file and put all your vessels information into that file and file it away. The reason I am requesting for you to do this is, let's say for hypothetical reasons your vessel comes up missing from your property or from the boat rack you chose to rent. You then call the municipal police and the department of public safety to file a report for missing or stolen property. Both departments are going to ask you for information about the missing or stolen property. At this point you can go into the file that you have created and assist the departments further with their report.

Know the municipal police will file their report for you and your insurance purpose if you choose to report it to your insurance company, and take it a step further with all the proper information that you have provided them they can input the information into the state data base as missing or stolen and if another department fines the vessel they can charge the violator accordingly. On the other hand the Emerald Lakes Department of Public Safety will file the report under your account here in ELA and use the information if we stop a vessel similar to yours and catch the violator with your property. We will contact the municipal police so they can charge the violator accordingly. If patrol comes about a vessel similar to yours, we will verify the information you have given us, safeguard your property and contact you so you can recover your missing property.

As I am addressing your mobile property I also would like to address your stationary property like your home. I strongly recommend that you make a file for all your items in your home including ANYTHING OF VALUE. I would like to also suggest to all the members here in Emerald Lakes full time or part time to take the extra step in safeguarding your property, your home a great investment in your life with an alarm system if possible. I'm not saying that this will stop a break in but it is a great deterrent and a greater source for your emergency responders.

I would like to help you get started on your files. Listed below are a few things I think you should have in your file;

- Photo(s) – Take photos of your property (to include the serial and model numbers of the item).
- Receipts – Save and file any receipt that you have as proof of value.
- Items with sentimental value – If an item that you have has a sentimental value to it like a family heirloom try to get it appraised. The appraisal will give you a value you can file. We all know that it's not the value that counts it is what it meant to you.
- Engrave – What I mean engrave; I would like you to take a unique number to you that nobody else would know or understand why and engrave or scratch it on any item you choose. Take a picture and file that away you can use that if or when law enforcement recovers your property as reassurance.

I would like to take this time and say Thank you for your time and let's continue enjoying the rest of the summer.

With Best Regards,
Chief
Anthony J. Cruz
ELA Department of Public Safety