

Dear Riverwoods Homeowners:

At this Holiday time of the year we wish we were writing some upbeat message or greeting; well, not this time.

Several additional acts of vandalism have taken place and we have been urged to let everyone know about them, as unpleasant as that might be for all of us. Ignoring it will not deter or stop it.

After dark, some “fist-sized” landscape rocks were thrown at the rear of a house on the wooded side of Riverwoods Drive; they landed on the deck just short of the large “glass wall” in the great room.

Most recently a UPS package delivery which was left on the front stoop of another house was opened on the stoop and the contents stolen. The resident was home; it occurred about 5:30 PM.

What can any of us do about this?

We have several suggestions:

We & the New Hope Police suspect that the perpetrators are young people living in Riverwoods; we also believe that some residents have very firm ideas of who they likely are but are unwilling to speak out. We fully understand the reluctance of those residents to confront their neighbors especially if there is not clear evidence.

So, we urge you to follow the Homeland Security campaign approach:

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!™

The police understand that this is not a minor matter and they urge you to call them if you suffer an incident or see any unusual activity whether by residents or by “outsiders”. Emergency 911; Non-Emergency 215-348-7400

The potential of a rock thrown through glass seriously injuring and maiming people/kids/pets inside the home is very real – it is not mischief – it is criminal behavior!

The theft of packages from private property is not mischief - it is criminal behavior!

If your telephone call stops one incident or keeps one perpetrator from doing these things you are helping your community - and the perpetrator. See the below table:

“Criminal Mischief and Vandalism Charges

The value of the total property damage determines the severity of a criminal mischief charge:

Value of Damage	Charge	Sentence
\$5,000 or More	3rd degree Felony	Up to seven years in prison
\$1,000 up to \$5,000	2nd Degree Misdemeanor	Up to two years in prison
\$500 up to \$1,000	3rd Degree Misdemeanor	Up to one year in prison
Up to \$500	Summary Offense	Up to 90 days in jail

As the chart indicates, a small difference in the value of damage in a case can result in a significantly higher or lower potential penalty if convicted.”

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Also, we would appreciate being informed; we have no policing powers but we can continue to inform others and urge vigilance. Collective information may also point more quickly to the guilty parties.

You can contact us via email at a new mailbox for this purpose, SafetyFirst@RiverwoodsAtNewHope.org; of course email is not anonymous but if you indicate that you do not want your name ever used we will honor that.

It is small consolation to know that we are not the only ones who have had some recent and even more dangerous incidents. As you know, we and Village 2 have suffered some front door break-ins & burglaries albeit not yet with any residents home.

The recent story below from the "[New Hope Free Press](#)" further encourages the IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING! approach.

“Solebury Township Police investigating three forced-entry residential burglaries; request tips

The Solebury Township Police Department said today that shortly after 10 a.m. on Nov. 4, a forced-entry residential burglary occurred at an occupied residence on the 6200 block of **Lower Mountain Road** near Route 202. A white male subject about 5’6” tall, with a thin build, made entry through a rear door, awakening the homeowner who scared off the suspect. The suspect fled the scene in a two-door silver vehicle (no further information) driven by a white male (no further information).

Anyone with information or who may have seen these suspects or the vehicle, are requested to call (215) 348-7400.

And as previously reported by the Solebury Township Police Department, two forced-entry residential condo burglaries occurred overnight on Friday, Nov. 1, in the **Fieldstone Condominium development** adjacent to Route 202 and Sugaan Road. Victim residences had multiple rooms disturbed or ransacked.

Anyone that may have seen suspicious vehicles or persons, or residences that may have surveillance footage from Nov. 1, are asked to contact the Solebury Township Police at (215) 348-7400.”

We are sorry to have to be the bearer of such information. But we believe a better informed community is a safer and more secure community.

Of course the various ways to make your individual home more secure should also be considered, as we mentioned in the last letter on this topic, (e.g., alarm systems, motion detector alarms & lights, assuring no visible accumulations of mail or newspapers, etc.).

We have a lovely community and we all want to keep it that way, please do what you can to help. Thank you.