

Personal and Home Security:

You know it is a lot better to prevent criminal activity before it happens than it is to end up having to use a gun to defend your home or yourself. Last month, we talked about installing a gate to limit access to your home and the many ways this helps to stop a gunfight before it happens. There are other things you can do to make criminals think twice before approaching your home. One of these is to install motion lights. Motion lights are outside flood lights that do not shine during the day and only shine at night when something moves past their "detector". All of the better quality fixtures are designed to have a pair of lights that can be directed in just about any way you want them to shine at night. The best bulbs to use are the 150 watt bulbs, which really do a decent job of illuminating the area in front of where you choose to place your lights. You really ought to place a pair of these lights at each corner of your home and anywhere else that a person might approach your home from the dark. Pretend you are a sneak thief and walk around your home at night to get a good idea of where your lights need to go. This will also show you what a person from the outside can see with the lights on inside of your home at night (Humm...time to get some curtains?). You need to place the motion lights high enough above ground so that they shine as far as possible and nobody can reach them to disable them.

Motion lights can be adjusted to stay on for up to 5 minutes once the detector is tripped (they will also stay on as long as the turkey in the spotlight moves) and you can adjust the sensitivity of the detector so it responds to movement at any reasonable distance you desire. You can point the detector part of the light to particular areas. You can also wire your lights so that each one goes off independent of the others or so that they all go off whenever one detects something. I suggest that you have each light operate independently, since then you can tell right away where the intruder is.

Just about everyone sells these things, but I know that Grovers near Central Point sells good ones for about \$35.00 each. The bulbs are extra. They are pretty easy to wire up, but since they are only rated at a maximum of 1000 watts and each fixture uses a total of 300 watts (two of the 150 watt bulbs), you cannot wire more than three such fixtures on any single line. Talk to the Grovers people and they will help you out on any of the details. So, it will cost you around \$200.00 for the whole thing. Don't have that much? Put up one light each month for the next few months and you will hardly notice the pain, but you will notice the benefits right away. Remember, the lights don't stay on, and so they will not affect your power bill.

Here is what happens. No one can approach your place at night without risking being spot-lighted. Suddenly since the light is bright and shining directly toward them, you can see intruders from inside your home a lot better than they can see you. You can see exactly who they are or at least get a good description of them for the police. Score one for the good guys. In addition, if they run around your house, they just trip more lights! Oops! Now if you have a dog, all of this makes it a lot easier for the dog to see the intruder and a lot more confident in barking at him. So not only is it daylight out, but the noise level rises as well. This ought to get your attention enough to roll out of bed, check the locks on the doors, fumble for the phone and if need be, drag out your cannon. It might also rouse your neighbors, provided you have told them what to do if such a thing happens. Here is the important point...any reasonable criminal just out to steal you blind will flee and you get to giggle yourself back to sleep. If, in spite of all of this, the intruder stays or continues to approach your home, then you have been well and truly warned and you will be prepared.

Even if your motion lights never get used to spot intruders like this, they still make life a lot nicer since they come on when you return to home after dark and you can see whether the coast is clear before entering your home. You can see when you walk around your house to do things at night with your hands free without the need for those pecky flashlights and lanterns.

May I suggest that if a group of you gets together and all chip in to make a large purchase, you might get a special price on say, enough motion lights for all of the houses in Butte Falls? Think that might take a little bite out of crime? Have neighbors who would rather stay in the dark? Let 'em. They'll attract the perps like flies.

Next time let's talk about watch dogs, shall we?

Lowell Nicolaus

Butte Falls Resource Center for Fitness and Health Project Canceled

Thank you to those of you who have donated to the Butte Falls School and Community Resource Center for Fitness and Health project. We appreciate your willingness to help.

This letter is to inform you that the project has been canceled, and the money gained from donations and fund raising is going to be dispersed to the school pay-for-play program, aimed at children enrolled in school who cannot afford to play sports. Each child in school is required to pay their own way to play a sport. Often times this means that some children get left out. We hope this money can make a difference to those children.

If you made a personal donation directly to the project, we are offering to refund your money if the pay-for-play program is not something you would care to support. Please write a request letter to the Butte Falls School District address above (Attention Janice Schultz), by September 15, 2005 if you would like a refund.

If you bought a Christmas tree, attended a BINGO night, or entered a raffle, once again we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Darren Kinyon
Sue Macy
Janice Schultz

Hey Crack Head—glad to hear there was no permanent damage. Next time try holding on to the ladder a little harder. Okay!
Lori and Krystal

For Sale: small pedestal dinning room table. Great size for an apartment. You can see it at 440 Pine Street or call Lila McClanahan at 865-3253.