Seniors Secure Homes in Locks Program

Police help with crime prevention

hands-on program designed to help eligible senior residents secure their homes -at no charge. The Senior Locks Program is a crime prevention effort guided by its two employees, Jeff Augustine and John

Augustine, who has been a locksmith for more than 25 years, and Kraus, who was a Portland police officer for 32 years, combine their knowledge and experience to make this program a valuable asset in the Portland communities.

"We complement each other," said Kraus, who has been with the program for five years. "I've seen my share of burglaries as an officer, and Jeff can repair or change any lock there is."

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Carlson of southeast Portland, this was an opportunity she couldn't pass up. In September 2005, Carlson found a window screen lying on the ground outside her home. She called the police, and a fingerprint technician came over and found handprints on the window where the screen was. The technician provided Carlson with prevention material about the Senior Locks Program.

"After seeing the handprints on the window, I thought this person might want to get in here again," said Carlson. "When I heard about the program, Icalled immediately. Since then, I've felt really safe inside my home, and told my friends all about the program."

The program is funded by the Portland Police Bureau and the Bureau of Housing and Community Development. To be eligible, you must be 55 years or older, own or in the process of buying the house you are living in, live within the Portland city limits, and be under the 50 percent median income limit.

Augustine and Kraus checked and made sure Carlson's existing doors closed and locked properly, installed galvanized mesh screens on her back door and basement windows, and put locking pins on her first-floor windows. An added benefit of this program is that all locks and repairs they make are maintained by the program at no cost.

Carlson is among approximately 200 new clients the program helps each year, which makes up 90 percent of its annual workload. Once an applicant is eligible,

The Portland Police Bureau manages a Augustine and Kraus perform a house security survey. This "checklist" includes inspecting all doors, windows, burglar alarms and even smoke detectors. As they inspect the home they make recommendations, including suggestions for lighting and shrubbery around the outside of the

Once the recommendations are accepted by the homeowners, Augustine and Kraus will come back with their workshop-onwheels and begin securing the home.

"This doesn't guarantee that your house will not get broken into," said Augustine. "But even with minimal security measures, the chances of being a victim are reduced."

The other percentage of the program's Although the name says "locks," that workload is assisting Police Bureau mem-



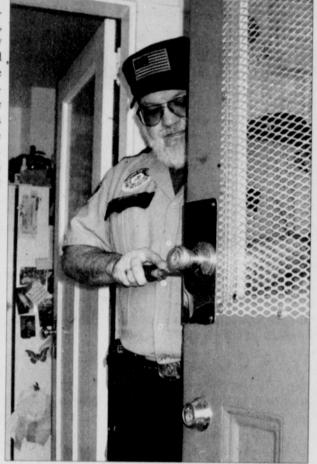
Marilyn Carlson of southeast Portland shows how a doubleheaded nail installed by the Senior Locks Program helps prevent burglars from entering from the outside.

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Jeff Augustine, locksmith with the Portland Police Bureau's Senior Locks Program, works on a door lock at a local home. The steel mesh window screen was installed by the program as an extra security

simple as opening locked desk drawers, or as complex as opening doors for raids, or rekeying/changing locks for victims of domestic violence or burglary. This service is available only through a referral from a Portland police officer.

'It feels great to make people feel safer, and have them appreciate it," said Kraus. Augustine, who often speaks to seniors about home security, agrees. "This is real community policing.'

For information on the Senior Locks Program, call the Portland Police Bureau's Identification Division at 503-823-0723.

Home Security Survey

Check out your home from the burglar's point of view: Are all exterior doors (including basement and garage) strong enough to withstand excessive force? YES NO Are all strike plates and frames for each door strong enough to withstand excessive force? YES NO Is there a wide-angle viewer on all entrances? YES NO Are sliding glass doors and windows secure? YES NO Are all entrances lighted at night? YES NO Are all your locks in good repair? YES NO Have you changed the locks since you moved into your residence? YES NO Are windows secured with pins or locks? YES NO Do casement windows work properly? YES NO Can all bars/locks be removed in case of fire? YES NO Do your basement windows have protection? YES NO Are garage doors secured with padlock or hasp? YES NO Do you lock your garage door at night? Do you lock your car in that garage? YES NO YES NO Do you cover and lock garage windows? YES NO Are trees and shrubs kept trimmed? YES NO Is your address posted clearly and visible at night and day? YES NO Are lights installed around perimeter? YES NO Have you locked up your ladders and made sure trellises and drain pipes can't be used as ladders?

Correction: Benefit One Night

A benefit preview of the play "Crowns," a Portland Center Stage Production which celebrates African-American women and the hats they wear, will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at downtown's Newmark Theater. A \$50 donation includes admission to a private reception at 5 p.m., followed by the performance at 7

The one night "Crowned Jewels" benefit is for African American Women for Breast Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Education, a collaboration of Chrysalis Ministries and Portland Center Stage and cosponsored by the Portland Observer.

"Crowns," the play itself, is not a benefit for its entire March 17 through April 9 run.



ALL LIMITS ARE PER HOUSEHOLD, PER DAY

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