

## **Horseshoe Bay PD House Watch Program Offers Peace of Mind While You're Away**

By Police Chief Jason Graham

As summer approaches and residents enjoy family vacations, the Horseshoe Bay Police Department wants to remind citizens that a program to enhance home protection when residents are away is available. With Horseshoe Bay House Watch, police officers will monitor a resident's home, at no cost to the resident. To be eligible for the program, a homeowner must reside in the city full-time, defined as more than six months per year.

The program provides for officers to check that doors and windows are locked and to hold delivered packages at the police department for safekeeping. "Prevention is the best strategy to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur at your home," says Chief Graham.

In the past 15 years, the Horseshoe Bay Police Department has not discovered any major criminal activity while checking homes, but has uncovered items such as water leaks, unsecured doors, open windows, and occasionally, open garage doors. Officers will immediately contact the homeowner anytime an issue is discovered and will secure the residence before leaving.

To sign up for the home watch program, residents may visit the Horseshoe Bay Police Department webpage at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/housewatch](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/housewatch) and complete the House Watch Request, or stop by the police department.

Residents who have signed up for the program should designate a neighbor or nearby relative as a "keyholder." The keyholder should have a set of keys to your home and the code to disarm the alarm if your home is equipped with one. This will allow police or fire department staff to quickly access your home, should the need arise.

The Horseshoe Bay Police Department is here to protect you and your property. Through this outreach program, we are committed to going the extra mile to protect our community. Thank you for supporting the Blue!

Remember to follow the City of Horseshoe Bay on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/horseshoebaygov](https://www.facebook.com/horseshoebaygov)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/horseshoebaygov](https://www.instagram.com/horseshoebaygov)).