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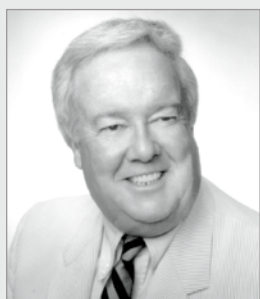


T: 800-372-4260
F: 805-643-4438
www.boydsecurity.com

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2016 | WINTER



IS LACK OF CIVILITY RUINING OUR COUNTRY?

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

In July 1993, White House official Vince Foster wrote an anguished lament: "In Washington... ruining people is considered a sport."*

Nine days later Foster was dead, an apparent suicide. Has the lack of civility in politics permeated our country to such an extent that civility at every level of society is diminished?

During the recent political campaign did anyone see bumper stickers extolling the merits of one candidate over the other? No, there were no bumper stickers this time because the public was ashamed of both candidates. The Presidential Debates were long on demeaning insults and short on specific policy plans and promises.

Remember when Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan joked during a debate and had a good laugh about their respective ages? And Tip O'Neil and Reagan used to have a drink together after work. And when Harry Truman finished his stint at the White House, he and Beth got in their family car and drove home to Missouri. Jimmy Carter has devoted his life after retirement to building homes for the disadvantaged. Politicians now expect to finish their service wildly rich. And they have come up with various devices to accomplish that goal. The term "Pay to Play" comes to mind.

We all can call to mind our sports heroes. It is tough for kids now days to develop an ongoing interest in a sports star. How many times have young people idolized an athletic hero only to have him arrested for substance abuse and end his/her career in disgrace? Children 7-17 used to get their chores done on Saturday morning and then go out and play baseball until the street lights came on. A shorter version prevailed on other days of the week. Observe families out for dinner. Are the kids participating in the conversation or do they have their head and eyes concentrating on a smart phone? Are they learning to communicate with intelligence?

It is only a short jump from this deterioration of values to the headline in the Chicago paper last week that read "Seventeen People Fatally Shot on Weekend". I believe the article went on to say that an additional 32 were wounded. A similar tragedy is happening in many of our major cities. And I believe if Hollywood remade Singing in the Rain they would have Donald O'Connor armed with an AK47.

Young people don't listen to what you say they listen to what you do. Are our political office holders, our sport stars and our entertainers doing their part to make our country a better place to live?

*A quote from Blood Sport by James B. Stewart

Raymond G. Boyd, C.E.O. Boyd & Associates

REPLACEMENT SIGNS

Are your Alarm signs or decals old, faded or damaged? Call our office to tell us how many you need and we will come replace them for free.





IF YOU OWN AN ALARM SYSTEM, CONSIDER THIS BEFORE CHANGING YOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDER...

Your alarm system sends signals to our central station through your telephone service. **Before you change your phone service provider, it is imperative that you contact Boyd & Associates to advise us of the impending change and request a service call.** A technician will need to install a device on your alarm system and reprogram the system to enable it to send a signal via the specific type of service you choose.

You may want to consider using a cellular connection to enable your alarm system to signal our central station in the event of an alarm activation. Another option is adding cellular back-up, which enables your alarm system to signal the central station in the event of a phone service outage.

Boyd & Associates provides the most up to date security, fire, access control, and CCTV systems, as well as alarm and Interactive Video Monitoring from our local 24-hour central station. If you would like more information about our services, **give us a call at 1-800-381-BOYD.**

GET THREE MONTHS OF FREE MONITORING WHEN YOU REFER A FRIEND!

When you refer your friends to Boyd and Associates, you will receive three months of free monitoring when your friend signs up for our service. So, pass the word and get free monitoring!

10 HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- 1. CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY** Natural trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize risk, get a fresh tree and water daily. Do not put tree within three feet of heat sources, such as fireplaces, candles, vents or space heaters.
- 2. SHOPPING FOR GIFTS** When shopping during the evening hours, park in well-lit and heavily traveled area. Do not leave purchased items visible in your vehicle.
- 3. SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Test alarm to ensure it is working properly. Check and replace any fire extinguishers that have expired.
- 4. PETS** Mistletoe, Holly and Poinsettia plants are poisonous to dogs and cats, keep out of their reach.
- 5. PACKAGE DELIVERY** More people are purchasing gifts online and having them shipping to their home. With this trend, more packages are being stolen off front porches. If you're expecting packages, request a signature confirmation or have a trusted neighbor hold it for you.
- 6. KITCHEN SAFETY** Never leave cooking equipment unattended and turn off burners if you leave the room.
- 7. DECORATIVE LIGHTING** Do not connect more than three miniature light strings together. Replace strings of lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connectors. Keep lights directly away from carpeting, furniture, drapes and other flammable materials. Always unplug decorative lights when leaving home or going to bed.
- 8. DESIGNATED SOBER DRIVER** Drink alcohol responsibly. Wherever the celebration everyone should promote safe behavior, make sure you have a designated sober driver.
- 9. TRAVELING AWAY FROM HOME** If you are traveling this holiday season, make sure your home looks occupied, set a timer for you lights, get a trusted neighbor bring in the mail and check on your home.
- 10. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR ALARM!** As you leave your home don't forget to set your alarm.