

Tips to Prepare your home when leaving for a period of time:

### **WATER:**

- **Completely shut off water.**
  - Preferred method if you will be gone for an extended period of time is to arrange shut off with the City Dept of Public Works (585-396-5060). The cost is \$25.00 to turn off and \$25.00 to turn back on. They need three days notice.
  - Another method is to turn off your water BEFORE the meter. This requires a wrench and some muscle.
  - Bleed the water lines for both the hot and cold water to relieve pressure by opening sink faucets.
  - Use water monitoring or leak detection technology year round
  - For any shorter period of time shut the water off at the meter.
  - If your meter is in your garage be sure the heat vent in your utility closet is left on.
  - Turn your hot water tank to vacation or pilot.

### **HEAT:**

- Keep a consistent indoor temperature of between 55 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent unwanted freezing of pipes or anything else.
- Remember to keep air circulating and keep cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathroom open for circulation to pipes.
- Consider insulating pipes in the attic and garage.

### **OTHER HINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- In the ***kitchen***:
  - Turn off ice maker
  - Unplug all small appliances (ex. Microwave, toaster, coffee maker, televisions)
  - Leave dishwasher open to air to avoid mold
  - If you turn off your refrigerator, leave doors open to allow air flow
- In the ***laundry area***:
  - Shut off water to washer.
  - Unplug washer and dryer

- Leave washer open to air to avoid mold
- At least every other year have dryer vent from dryer to outside cleaned.
- In the ***bathrooms***:
  - Consider plastic wrapping both toilets to prevent evaporation and sewer gas.

### **OUTSIDE:**

- Remove hoses from spigots.
- Cover top of air conditioner to prevent snow buildup near motor.
- Store propane tanks outside or away from a heat source in garage, never in house.

### **SECURITY:**

- Place stick in sliding glass door.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- Be sure your garage door is closed.
- Be sure Crofton Perdue has your emergency contact.
- Consider letting a neighbor know you will be away and provide them with contact info.
- Consider lights on timers.