

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## Fountain Valley Police Department

10200 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley CA 92708

Paul A. Sorrell, Chief of Police

### Police Phone Numbers

Non-Emergency: 714-593-4485 / 714-593-4486

Watch Commander: 714-593-4487

Crime Prevention Office: 714-593-4526

Crime in Progress: 9-1-1

### Neighborhood Watch

Office: 714-593-4488

Report Graffiti: 714-593-4604

## Winter 2011-2012 Issue

Hello Fountain Valley Residents and Businesses:

We would like to thank Patty Keith for her dedication to the Neighborhood Watch Program as the N.W. Volunteer Coordinator for the last two years. We appreciate all that she has done for the program and for all her efforts, hard work and support. We commend her for a job well done! We look forward to introducing another enthusiastic Fountain Valley resident to be the new N.W. Volunteer Coordinator in your community! Look for the information in the next Neighborhood Watch Spring Newsletter 2012.

Let's all work together to keep our community safe. BE AWARE!! BE ALERT!! Watch out for your neighbors too. Call the Fountain Valley Police Department for anything out of the ordinary.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR CITY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY; "A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK!!"



Sherry Larner

Crime Prevention/Neighborhood Watch Specialist

Community Service Officer

Fountain Valley Police Department

(714) 593-4526 or Sherry.Larner@FountainValley.org

LINKS: [www.FVPD.org](http://www.FVPD.org)

[www.FountainValley.org](http://www.FountainValley.org)

## CRIME PREVENTION TIP

When shopping at the grocery store, the first thing some women do is put their purse in the grocery cart. WRONG!!! You have now lost control of your purse. The moment you walk away to pick something up or look at an item, your purse is sitting there by itself. Inside your purse you probably have your credit cards, checkbook, cash, driver's license and maybe your car and house keys. If your purse and/or wallet is stolen, your driver's license identifies where you live; and before you can get home, the thief has probably been there. Or worse yet, the thief can now assume your identity. The thief can steal thousands of dollars from you, ruin your credit and have you spend months trying to correct it. Never set your purse in a grocery cart, on a counter or floor in a public place. Think of all you have to lose and what a hassle it would be to cancel credit cards, etc. Be smart; get a shoulder strap purse and keep it on you so you will have your hands free. Or better yet, just take a credit card or check and keep it in your pocket. The same thing applies to leaving your purse or wallet in your car. If a thief sees it in your car, you now have given him the opportunity to break into your car to take it. If you cannot carry a shoulder bag, put what you need in a pocket or fanny pack. Be creative and think of other ways to prevent the theft of your wallet or purse. Be smart, be safe and start today!!

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOLIDAY SAFETY

It's that time of year again. Watch out for the thieves, especially now when the holidays are approaching. Keep your valuables, such as your purse, electronic devices and holiday gifts, safe and secure especially in shopping center parking lots by securing your vehicle. Be sure and keep packages covered. Try not to go out alone at night. It is best to take someone along with you. Park in a well-lit area. Ladies, keep your handbag close to the front of your body so it will not be seen by a thief who can grab it from off your shoulder or back. If you become a victim, for your safety, please don't risk your life by trying to run after a thief. It is not worth the risk. If you can, get a description of the person and call 911. Make sure your family has the Fountain Valley Police Department's phone number stored in their cell phone at 714-593-4485. If it is an emergency, please dial 911 immediately. When you leave your home (even for just a few minutes), be sure and keep all doors and windows securely locked, turn on some inside lights (or buy a timer to set up a light to come on when dark); also leave your patio and front door lights on. Make sure you close the shutters or curtains so those burglars will be deterred from your home. Burglars love to peek into dark residences and business areas so nobody can see them.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**®

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

This holiday season the FBI is reminding shoppers that cyber criminals aggressively create new ways to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to fool potential victims, including conducting fraudulent auction sales, re-shipping merchandise purchased with stolen credit cards, and selling fraudulent or stolen gift cards through auction sites at discounted prices.

## 7 MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Sometimes I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you are home and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
6. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
7. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: [www.crimedoctor.com](http://www.crimedoctor.com)

Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book, *Burglars on the Job*.

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR RESPONSIBLE HOSTING

The decision to serve alcoholic beverages in your home carries with it a responsibility for the welfare of your guests. Responsible attitudes towards drinking should make us behave in such a way that we would never have to feel sorry for what happened. Remember, people don't like to admit that they are impaired and may argue that they are okay to drive. Share with your guests the fact that impairment begins with the very first drink, and remind them of the penalties they face if convicted of driving under the influence.

### **Orange County Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) suggests:**

- Set a drink limit, and don't push drinks; push food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- If you serve alcoholic punch, make it with a non-carbonated base.
- Never let your guests drink and drive.
- Never serve alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age.
- Don't ride in a car with anyone who is impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Have a designated driver for all party events.
- NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE!!!

## **TIPS ON AVOIDING FRAUDULENT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES**

Recently, several natural disasters, including tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes, have devastated lives and property. In the wake of these events that have caused emotional distress and great monetary loss to numerous victims, individuals across the nation often feel a desire to help these victims frequently through monetary donations.

These disasters prompt individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines to include the following:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (SPAM) e-mail.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as officials soliciting via e-mail for donations.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mails claiming to contain pictures in attached files as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- To ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes, make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf.
- Validate the legitimacy of the organization by directly accessing the recognized charity or aid organization's website rather than following an alleged link to the site.
- Attempt to verify the legitimacy of the non-profit status of the organization by using various Internet-based resources, which also may assist in confirming the actual existence of the organization.
- Do not provide personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions. Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

To obtain more information on charitable contribution schemes and other types of online schemes, visit [www.LooksTooGoodToBeTrue.com](http://www.LooksTooGoodToBeTrue.com).

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If you believe you have been a victim of a charity related scheme, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud at (866) 720-5721 or by e-mail at [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov).

You can also report suspicious e-mail solicitations or fraudulent websites to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov). For personal use for protection against identity theft, go to [www.LifeLock.gov](http://www.LifeLock.gov).

Resource: Alert prepared by the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**

## A MIRROR OR A TWO-WAY GLASS?

This is really good information to know. Please make sure you tell the women in your life...

How can you tell when you are in a room, restroom, motel, etc., with a mirror or a two-way glass? Here's how: And in about 30 seconds you're going to do what many would do and find the nearest mirror. Do you know how to determine if a mirror is two-way or not? A policewoman, who travels all over the U.S. and gives seminars and techniques for businesswomen, passed this on: When we visit toilets, bathrooms, hotel rooms, changing rooms, etc., how many of you know for sure that the seemingly ordinary mirror hanging on the wall is a real mirror, or actually a two-way mirror (i.e., they can see you, but you can't see them)? There have been many cases of people installing two-way mirrors in female changing rooms. It is very difficult to positively identify the surface by looking at it. So, how do we determine with any amount of certainty what type of mirror we are looking at? Just conduct this simple test: Place the tip of your fingernail against the reflective surface; and if there is a GAP between your fingernail and the image of the nail, then it is a GENUINE mirror. However, if your fingernail DIRECTLY TOUCHES the image of your nail, then BEWARE! IT IS A TWO-WAY MIRROR! "No Space, Leave the Place." So, remember every time you see a mirror, do the "fingernail test." It doesn't cost you anything.

## KIDS SAFETY FIRST ORGANIZATION

Remember, there are no second chances in automobile crashes. Your children rely on YOU to help keep them safe. Following these simple rules can make all the difference:

1. Always buckle up, every trip, every time!
2. Place kids 12 and under in the backseat. This is the safest place for your child.
3. Always use the correct child safety seat for your child's age, height and weight.
4. Always install and use the child safety seat correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions provided with the seat.
5. Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front passenger seat of vehicles where an airbag is present.
6. Always set a good example for your children by wearing your own seat belt.

For more information regarding child safety, child safety seats and selecting the correct seat for your infant, toddler, or child, visit the NHTSA website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

**LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER IN THE 2012 SPRING ISSUE OF THE FOUNTAIN PEN!**