

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

Fall 2011 Issue

Hello Fountain Valley Residents:

Summer is over and it's that time of year again – Time change!!

It is darker earlier so that means we need to be more aware of what's around us as we get out of work, rush into the grocery store, wait at the gas station (watch your purses ladies) and just walking around your neighborhood. Keep your eyes open in the front of you and the back of you.

Be watchful of anyone or anything out of place – if it doesn't look right or if you don't feel comfortable, call Fountain Valley Police Department and let them know. They are only a phone call away if something is suspicious. Keep talking to your neighbors – we can watch out for each other. We never know when we might need their assistance.

Thank you, Fountain Valley residents, for the honor and privilege of being your N.W. Coordinator for the last two years. It has been wonderful being a hands-on part of our community. It has been fun, but I feel it is now time to pass the torch on to the next enthusiastic Fountain Valley Resident! Thank you for all your support.



Patty Keith
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

We are looking for a volunteer to become the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. The Coordinator participates in Neighborhood Watch Board meetings, in planning special events, provides a communication link between residents and the Fountain Valley Police Department and assists the Crime Prevention Specialist with the quarterly Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, along with providing leadership to the Neighborhood Watch volunteer RD coordinators.

If you have great organizational/people skills and are interested in volunteering, the Fountain Valley Police Department is looking for you! Our current NW Coordinator, Patty Keith, is passing the torch in August 2011. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Crime Prevention Office at 714-593-4526 for more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity to become involved in your community!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR SAFELY

School is hard enough without having to worry if you will be safe on your way or while you're there, but McGruff can help.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®

Getting to School and Back Home Again

- Find an easy way to walk to school or to the bus stop. Ask your parents if there is anything you should watch out for along the way.
- Always walk with a brother, sister, neighbor or a friend.
- Don't talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or take anything from them.
- Know your phone number and address. If you have trouble remembering them, write them down and keep them with you or store them in your cell phone, along with the Fountain Valley Police Department's non-emergency number at 714-593-4485.

KNOW THE RULES HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- Be sure older children **TAKE FRIENDS** and younger children are accompanied by a **TRUSTED ADULT** when "Trick or Treating."
- Accompany younger children to the door of every home they approach and make sure parents and guardians are familiar with every home and all people from which the children receive treats.
- Teach children to **NEVER** enter a home without prior permission from their parents or guardians.
- Teach children to **NEVER** approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Make sure all children wear reflective clothing and carry a glow stick when out at dusk and at night.
- Make sure children are able to see and breathe properly and easily when using facial masks. All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant.
- Teach children to stay alert for any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents, guardians, and/or the proper authority.
- Teach children to **NEVER** approach a home that is not well lit both inside and outside.
- Teach children if anyone tries to grab them to make a scene; loudly yell "this person is not my father/mother/guardian" and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
- Consider organizing or attending parties at home, in schools, or in community centers as a good alternative to "Trick or Treating."

Resource: missingkids.com **HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HALLOWEEN!**



FIND FV PD ON FACEBOOK

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

13 THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste...and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it...
5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom – and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. It's raining; you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door – understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters or driveway. (Don't take me up on it.)
9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
10. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
11. You're right; I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
12. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com)
13. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

Resource: crimedoctor.com

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW THESE HOME SECURITY TIPS

- Always lock your windows and doors when you go out, even if for only a few minutes.
 - All windows should be equipped with a secondary security lock.
 - All exterior doors should be of a solid core construction and have a deadbolt lock. This includes the door leading from the garage into your home. These doors should also be equipped with a security strike plate using two to four three-inch screws. The screws should affix the strike plate to the home's structure, not just the frame of the door.
- Never leave a purse, wallet or other valuables in plain sight.
- If your home is equipped with an alarm, always activate it even if you're going out for a short walk.
 - Your alarm should be both audible and monitored.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®

- Always keep your front and rear porch lights on from dusk to dawn and use motion detector lighting along the sides of your home or areas with limited foot traffic.
- Keep landscaping trimmed down around doorways, windows and light fixtures.
- When you leave on vacation, remember to sign up for a “Vacation Check” at fvpd.org/forms/vacationcheck.
 - Have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your paper and mail while you are away.

Be The Best Neighbors You Can Be And Look Out For One Another! If You See Suspicious Activity Or A Crime In Progress, Please Call 9-1-1.

LOTTERY SCAMMERS NOW MISUSING PUBLIC SERVICES

The IC3 has received several complaints from victims who reported receiving telephone calls from a Jamaican subject claiming they were lottery winners. The subject told victims to first wire funds for various expenses, such as taxes and other handling fees, to collect the lottery winnings. The subject threatened many victims with physical violence if they refused to wire money. The subjects were identified as Jamaican through their accents and verification of numbers displayed on the victim’s caller ID.

Though this scam is not new, the subjects continue to develop new methods to further their fraudulent scheme. For example, the IC3 received a complaint in which an elderly individual had fallen victim to the lottery scam. After the victim’s family interceded and stopped the liquidation of the victim’s funds, the subject sent a taxicab to take the victim to a major retail establishment that offered wire transfer services, hoping the victim would wire the funds as requested.

In other instances, after elderly victims realized they were being defrauded and stopped participating in the lottery scam, the subjects asked local law enforcement to conduct a “well-being” check on the victims. However, during the courtesy checks, the victims told law enforcement about the lottery scams and avoided further victimization. Apparently, the fraudsters tried to use law enforcement to further coerce the victims into again communicating with, or sending funds to, the fraudsters.

Resource: ic3.gov

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!



Thank You To Our Sponsor Target At The Westminster Mall, And To Everyone For The Great Turnout And Support At The Fountain Valley’s Third Annual National Night Out 2011 And Movie In The Park!! Mark Your Calendar Now For Next Year’s Fourth Annual National Night Out On Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

LOOK FOR NEXT NW NEWSLETTER COMING IN WINTER 2012