The Watchdog News

Livermore Police Department

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: PART OF AMERICA'S HISTORY

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer.

Neighborhood Watch can trace its roots back to the days of colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version of Neighborhood Watch was developed in response to requests from sheriffs and police chiefs who were looking for a crime prevention program that would involve citizens and address an increasing number of burglaries.

Launched in 1972, Neighborhood Watch counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities, while demonstrating their presence at all times of day and night. (The program took off quickly: in just ten years data showed that 12 percent of the population was involved in a Neighborhood Watch). Neighborhood Watch works because it reduces opportunities for crime to occur; it doesn't rely on altering or changing the criminal's behavior or motivation.

National Night Out (NNO)
The 29th Annual National Night Out will be held Tuesday - August 7th

National Night Out (NNO) is a unique worldwide event that boosts awareness about how citizens can help prevent drug use and crime. It has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program promoting neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The benefits our community derives extend well beyond that one night!

- **Heightens crime and drug prevention awareness**
- **Generates participation and support for local anticrime programs such as Neighborhood Watch**
- **Strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships**
- **Sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back**

National Night Out Activities:
Cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as outdoor displays, block parties, cookouts, visits from local police, parades, contests and exhibits.

Citizen's Police Academy (CPA)

The CPA has been developed to further the department's goal of expanding the Community Oriented Policing philosophy throughout the department and the community. In doing so, it is important to have citizen-police interaction and cooperation. One way of accomplishing this goal is through an exchange of ideas and education.

This Academy is a (16) week course designed to give citizens an orientation to the Livermore Police Department and the law enforcement profession

For more information regarding the CPA – and to register for the next class – please go to our website:

http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/police/academy.asp

July 4th Fireworks are back in Livermore!

The July 4th Fireworks are back! This year's event will take place at the Las Positas Community College campus, located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. The event kicks off at 4:00 pm with family games, food and live music. Pets and outside alcohol are not allowed, but beer and wine will be available for purchase. The entrance fee is $20 per carload in advance or $25 at the gate. The walk-in entry fee is $5 per person. For more information or to purchase advanced parking tickets: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/251274

Keeping Kids Safe: Inside and Out of Your Vehicle

We have been educating parents and kids about the importance of seat belt safety. However, it is not the sole factor to keep your kids safe or out of danger in a vehicle. There are other dangers in and around your vehicle that can seriously injure or even kill your child.

- Before you leave your vehicle, always check the front and back seats and lock the doors before walking away.
- Always make sure all the vehicle doors are locked when unattended

Here is some common dangers that NHTSA has identified that even the most careful parents can overlook:

In the vehicle:

- Heatstroke

- Power windows
- Vehicle roll-away

Prevention tips for heatstroke:

- Never leave an unattended child in a vehicle.
- Never leave your child in a parked vehicle even if the windows are rolled down a few inches.
- Remember, children under four heat up to 3 to 5 times faster than an adult and are at greater risk for heat related injuries. Vehicles heat up very quickly, reaching deadly levels in just 10 minutes, even on cold days.

Prevention tips for Power windows:

- Teach your child no to play with window switches. They can injure their fingers or hands. Some kids have been strangled by power windows.
- Never leave the key in the ignition when you walk away from your car.
- Remember to always check the windows you intend to rise up, making sure your child is not sitting on the window or their hands are not on the window.
- Remember to activate the power window lock switch so that your child cannot play with the window.

Prevention tips for Vehicle Roll-away:

- Never leave keys in your car.
- Engage your emergency brake every time you park.
- Supervise children carefully when in and around vehicles.
- Remember, with the key in the ignition, the automatic transmission may be shifted out of park even if the engine is off. It doesn't take long before a child sets your car in motion unintentionally.

Around the Vehicle:

- Trunk entrapment
- Backing up

Prevention tips for Truck entrapment:

- Teach your child not to play in or around cars.
- Lock your car doors and trunk and be sure keys and remote entry devices are out of your child's reach.
- Keep the rear fold-down seats closed/locks to keep your children from climbing into the truck from inside your car.
- Remember, heat rises up to 20% Fahrenheit in just 10 minutes. High temperature, humidity and poor ventilation causes dangerous environment in a vehicle's truck. Show your kids how to use the trunk release "glow in the dark" device in case of an emergency.

Prevention tips for Backing Up:

- Supervise your child carefully when in and around vehicles.
- Teach children to move away from a vehicle when the driver gets in or the car is

started.

- Make sure you know where your kids are prior to backing up.
- Never assume the rear of your vehicle is clear.
- Remember many children are killed or seriously injured in back-over incidents. These incidents typically occur in driveways or parking spaces when a driver did not see an unattended child. Remember the bigger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots are. Don't rely solely on the vehicles warning devices, look before backing up.

For more information on keeping kids safe – go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website:

http://www.nhtsa.gov/Vehicle+Safety

HOME SECURITY 101 – Thorns and Pokey Things

What beautiful roses! The cactus are just gorgeous! The spines on that plant are so interesting…

If these are the complements you're receiving about your garden, specifically garden areas near your fences, then you are already a crime preventer!

Are you nervous about someone jumping over a fence or getting into an area of your yard that may be vulnerable? Shrubbery can be an excellent tool for enhancing home security.

You can make a potential access point less desirable by planning an attractive collection of thorny or sharp shrubs. Thorny, sharp and "untouchable" plants can be just the deterrent to the person thinking about jumping over a fence.

Plants must be carefully selected and MAINTAINED as they can also hurt your prevention efforts when they aid a burglar by providing concealment around your home. Shrubbery that blocks the view of your front door or windows can be an invitation to trouble. Be sure to keep your plants well trimmed so that they do hot block the view from the street of your doors and windows. Also, keeping shrubs, hedges and other plantings thinned and cut up from the ground will prevent someone from hiding from your view.

Upcoming Events

June 16th – Annual Citywide Garage Sale

June 25th – City Council Meeting @ 7pm

National Night Out - Tuesday, August 7, 2012

GARAGE DOOR SECURITY

When automatic garage openers were first introduced they all featured the same code. This posed a huge security risk because thieves could just drive through a neighborhood pushing their purchased transmitter and if you had the same brand as they did, they were in.

As companies became more aware of this security risk, they tried to combat the problem by featuring dipswitches that could be set by the owner to a unique combination. This did increase security, however, most owners would leave the default setting at "on" and if this happened, the criminals had access again.

At this point, another security risk was acknowledged. A code grabber could be utilized to gain access to a homeowner's garage door opener system. A code grabber device works by locking onto a homeowner's garage door signal and memorizing it. Then the thief would retransmit the code – and they were in.

Today automatic garage door openers feature rolling-code technology. This allows your remote to transmit a brand new security code each time you press your remote. There are billions of codes so the likelihood of a code grabber working is very slim. To stay vigilant and to prevent being a victim of a garage door break-in, ensure that your garage door opener features this rolling code technology.

Some other tips to consider when it comes to garage doors is:

1. *Don't leave your garage door open! An open garage door is an open invitation for a thief. If you think about it, our garage holds many valuables, including our vehicles, golf clubs, tools, lawnmowers, bikes and more.*
2. *Don't leave the garage door remote in your vehicle. If a thief breaks into your car and is able to steal the remote (while looking at your address on your registration card) he/she now has access.*
3. *Make sure the man door into your garage is locked with a deadbolt lock. Don't spend so much time concentrating on your automatic door that you forget about the man door that also gives access to your garage. (Keep the door from the garage into your home locked as well).*
4. *Cover your garage windows. Don't give thieves the opportunity to see what you have stored in your garage.*
5. *Finally, when you are going out of town, unplug your garage door so that it can't be opened.*

REMEMBER TO BE AWARE

Don't Be A Victim of An Auto-Related Property Crime

Lock It - A reminder to always lock your vehicle

Hide It - If you have to leave your valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight

Keep It - a positive reminder that personal responsibility and prevention can safeguard your valuables from theft

KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY
Graffiti Hotline 373-5600
Abandon Vehicles 371-4824
Neighborhood Preservation 960-4444
Crime Tip Hot Line 371-4790
City of Livermore's new website:
http://www.cityoflivermore.net/