

# *The Watch Dog News*

*Livermore Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit*

Chief of Police: Randy Sonnenberg

Crime Prevention Specialist: Nichole Aguon

**Crime Prevention: 925-371-4797**

**www.livermorepolice.org**

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Editor: Rich Spivey

**Non-Emergency: 925-371-4987**

**Crime Tip Hotline: 925-371-4790**



## **What is Neighborhood Watch?**

The Neighborhood Watch program enables the police and community to work together, making our neighborhoods more crime-resistant. It is a neighborhood and community based effort, designed to help citizens and the police in preventing primarily residential burglary and other neighborhood-related crimes. In harmony with the philosophy of Community Policing, Neighborhood Watch encourages strong working relationships between the police and the citizens of Livermore.

Neighborhood Watch programs are known to instill a greater sense of security and well-being. They can also reduce the fear of crime in the community as well as create a greater “sense of community” and put the “neighbor” back into “neighborhood”. Neighborhood Watch also brings law enforcement and the community together as a team to help reduce crime opportunities.

Neighborhood Watch is a program that:

1) Teaches citizens how to reduce the risk of victimization at home and away; 2) Trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how

to report them; 3) Teaches residents how to make their homes more secure; 4) Allows neighbors to get to know each other so that any out-of-place activity can be reported promptly; and 5) Creates a cohesive body of concerned citizens that can address other issues that concern their community.

To start a watch group call 371-4978

## **Randy Sonnenberg Interim Chief**

Former Foster City Police Chief Randy Sonnenberg has been appointed to the position. Sonnenberg served 30 years with the Foster City department before retiring in 2004. Sonnenberg is filling the position until the City selects a new chief after Police Chief Steve Sweeny retired this year. Sonnenberg is currently a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the California Police Chiefs Association. He is also a mentor and coach and is a sought after speaker with police departments in California, the city said.

## Neighborhood Watch Tips

Let's all work together to help eliminate neighborhood crime. Please watch out for these activities in our neighborhoods:

- Someone screaming. If you can't explain the screams, call law enforcement and report them
- Someone going door-to-door in the neighborhood or looking into windows and parked cars.
- Someone ask about past residents.
- Someone who appears to have no purpose wandering through the neighborhood.
- Unusual or suspicious noises that you cannot explain, such a breaking glass or pounding.
- Vehicles moving slowly without lights or without an apparent destination.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle. This could involve the sale of drugs or stolen goods.
- Offers of merchandise available for ridiculously low prices. The items maybe stolen.
- Someone removing property from unoccupied residences.
- A stranger entering the neighbor's home when you know they are gone.
- A stranger stops in a car to talk to a child.
- A child resisting the advances of an adult.

Just make that call and let police sort it out if you are unsure.

## How To Be a Good Witness To a Crime

If you are a crime victim or you witness a crime, your observations can lead to a faster resolution of the case.

When you report a crime, the 911 call-taker will ask you to describe the suspect(s) you observed. NEVER place your personal safety or the safety of those around you in jeopardy to get a better description of a subject, but if possible, make a mental picture of the suspect(s) by scanning the individual(s) from top to bottom, and outside to inside.

Note the most obvious information first: race, sex, approximate age, weight and height. Then note hair and eye color, complexion and any distinguishing features such as glasses, scars, facial hair, tattoos, etc.

Notice what the person is wearing, starting with the outside layer of clothing. Many times a suspect may remove outerwear to elude police officers.

If you're describing a vehicle, remember the acronym CYMBALS:

**C**- color

**Y**- year

**M**-Make

**B**- body

**A**- additional descriptive features

**L**-license plate number

**S**- state

## **How Secure is Your House?**

Sure, many of us think we are taking measures to protect ourselves and our property. But are we really doing all that we can to prevent ourselves from becoming the burglar's "window of opportunity". Maybe it's time to take a good look in and around your house to see if there might be something more you can do. Make a list and ask yourself these questions...

- Are the locks inside my house, which can be opened from the outside, at least 40 inches from the glass?
- Do all entry doors have good dead bolt locks?
- Have the locks all been re-keyed since moving in?
- Is the window air conditioning secured from the inside?
- Are shrubs cut below window level to prevent concealment?
- Is your address number clearly visible from the street?
- Are valuable items, such as bicycles, mowers, power tools and ladders, kept in a locked area or inside?
- Do you have serial numbers of electronics, bicycles and tools written down or have you engraved items with a special code?
- Do you stop deliveries of mail and papers when going on vacation and have a family member or trusted friend check on your home when you are gone?
- Is the yard and driveway taken care of while away for extended periods?

- Do you set inside and outside lights on timers?
- If you own a gun, is it kept secured?
- Do you keep a list of valuable property, credit card, and serial numbers?
- Do you allow strangers or solicitors into your house?

As we draw closer to spring, this may be a good time to do a Spring Security Review and keep you and your property secure.

## **Spring Into Summer**

Now that the warmer weather is approaching, it might be a good time to go outside and get reacquainted with some of the people on your block that you haven't seen all winter. Maybe you can even meet some new people in the neighborhood and help to revive or generate new interest in your neighborhood watch program. It is also a good time to start planning for those summer block parties and garage sale events.

## **Warmer Weather**

Warmer weather burglaries increases as people leave their windows open. What an easy access point for the burglar.

Bathroom windows most left open.

**FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CITY PHONE NUMBERS**  
*Emergency – 911*

Abandoned Vehicles	Police Department	371-4824
Adult Education	CPR, First Aid or CERT Class registration	606-4722
All Bay	Vehicle Donations	827-7199
Animal Control		371-4848
Animal Shelter		803-7040
Block Party Permits	Engineering/City/Permits	960-4410
Bus Service Wheels	<a href="http://www.wheelsbus.com">www.wheelsbus.com</a>	455-7500
Construction Noise	Police Department	371-4987
Crime / Gang Tip	<b>Hotline:</b> <i>anonymous crime tips</i>	371-4790
Fire Department	Public Education information	454-2361
Graffiti Hotline	Message only, leave exact location	373-5600
Hazardous Materials	Fire Prevention	454-2362
Health Department		510-567-6700
Horizons Family	Counseling	371-4747
L.A.R.P.D.	Livermore Area Recreation Parks Department	373-5700
Livermore Police	Emergency Number for your cell	371-4987
Maintenance	Maintenance Department	960-8020
Neighborhood Preservation	<a href="mailto:Code_enforcement@cityoflivermore.net">Code_enforcement@cityoflivermore.net</a> Abandoned Shopping Carts	960-4444 371-4824
<b>Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention</b>	<b>Nichole Aquon - <a href="mailto:naguon@cityoflivermore.net">naguon@cityoflivermore.net</a></b> <b>Rich Spivey – <a href="mailto:rspivey@cityoflivermore.net">rspivey@cityoflivermore.net</a></b>	<b>371-4797</b>
Poison Control		1-800-876-4766
Police Records	Police Department	371-4900
Recycling	<a href="http://Stopwaste.org">Stopwaste.org</a>	1-877-stopwaste
Request for new	Engineering Department	960-4500
Senior Citizen Center		373-5760
Side Yard Structures/ permits	Building Department	960-4410
Social Security Administration	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>	
Teddy Bear Cops	Vehicle Donations	1-800-851-7199
Traffic Enforcement	Requests- Police Department	371-4850
Traffic Information	Bay Area	511
Trash/Old Cars, etc.	Code Enforcement	960-4450
Weed Abatement	Fire Prevention	454-2362
Welcome to Livermore, Calif.	<a href="http://www.cityoflivermore.net">http://www.cityoflivermore.net</a>	
Equifax	<a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>	1-800-685-1111
Experian	<a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>	1-888-397-3742
TransUnion	<a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>	1-800-916-8800
Do not call list	<a href="https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx">https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx</a>	
American Red Cross	<a href="http://www.bayarea-redcross.org/">http://www.bayarea-redcross.org/</a>	415-427-8000