

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR SAFETY

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July 2006

Hello Neighbors,

A couple of weeks ago in the early morning hours, a vehicle was broken into as it was parked in the driveway in the vicinity of Gemfield Dr and Brush Ridge. Unfortunately, the vehicle was unlocked and a wallet was left inside. All the cash was taken but the credit cards were left in a neighbor's driveway, otherwise, nothing else was taken. Alarms were also set off in two other vehicles during the same timeframe on Soaring Dr and Brush Ridge. It is unsure if this was the work of one individual or a group of individuals. These events were reported to CSPD and a nightly patrol was maintained for two weeks. To minimize the potential of a vehicle break-in, if at all possible, park vehicles in the garage. If you can't get your vehicle into the garage, remove all valuables...to include purses, wallets, mobile electronics (walkman, IPODs, PDAs, laptops, etc.), garage door openers; and make sure all the doors are locked.

CSPD suggests leaving porch lights on throughout the night to deter crime. Leaving porch lights not only makes it easier for the homeowner to see where they are walking in their own driveway but it will allow your neighbors across the street to see if something is amiss in your driveway or house. A darkened house may give potential burglars the impression that the home is unoccupied and the burglary then turns into a home invasion incident.

A white truck has been observed driving at slow speeds in the VM neighborhood. Upon being accosted by a member of the community, the driver left. Unfortunately, further description of the vehicle is not available. Be vigilant! If anyone observes any suspicious vehicles driving through the neighborhood, get a license plate number, a description of the vehicle and driver (if possible) and contact CSPD at 911.

As the weather heats up, many homeowners are leaving their garage doors up to vent out the hot stagnant air. This practice is discouraged by CSPD and may also have negative ramifications with your insurance company if a burglary claim is filed. If you must leave the garage door up, make sure that it is not high enough to allow a body to squeeze in and remember to close the garage door before going to bed.

Each of us can do our part to make our neighborhood safer by looking out for each other. Notify your neighbor(s) if you notice their garage door is open after a certain time or if the garage door is left open after they have left for work. Keep an eye out for strangers transiting through the neighborhood or unfamiliar individuals loitering in front of a house or the same vehicle driving pass the house more than a couple of times.

National Night our will be held August 1st. The night is designated to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, send a message to the criminals letting them know that our neighborhood has an active neighborhood watch and they are not going to get far in Vista Mesa. In recognition of this night they ask you turn on your porch lights as a message that you are a supporter of National Night Out.

The VM Monthly Bulletin is posted on the Vista Mesa website under "Committees" and may be accessed at: <http://www.vistamesahoa.org>.

Block Captains are: Carleen Roth, John Bartels, Katie Drummond, Sarah Garfin, AJ Herbert, Tom Miller, Carmen Moyer, Beth Nagel, Carl Passanatte, Georgia Pauls, Johnna Sampsel, Lisa Simon, Debby Smith, and Kelly Stein. We're always looking for neighbors to participate in the Neighborhood Watch. If you are interested, please contact us through the website or one of the Block Captains.

Ann Lim
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator