

West Valley Patrol Division

# City of Saratoga Crime Prevention Forum

October 26, 2014

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Deputy T. Bond



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# Agenda

- **Preparing Your Home**
- **Home Burglary Prevention**
- **Vehicle Burglary Prevention**
- **How To Be A Good Witness**
- **Reporting Suspicious Persons and Vehicles**
- **Questions?**



# Preparing Your Home

- Help 9-1-1 Find You Fast!
  - Can We Read Your House Numbers?



# Preparing Your Home (Cont.)

- Can you read these?



# Preparing Your Home

- Good House Numbering
  - Readable Size, Illuminated or Reflective
  - Multiple Locations
    - Curbline, front lawn and home



# Preparing Your Home

- Readable? Good Size? Multiple Signs?



# Preparing Your Home

- Property Gate or Fence
  - Ensure your Alarm Company has your gate code
  - Or give the code/key to a neighbor



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# HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION



# Doors and Locks

- Change the locks when moving into a new residence
- Keep your doors locked at ALL times
- Consider having a wide-angle (180° ) door viewer installed in the entry door
- NEVER hide a key outside
  - Don't let burglars use your spare key
  - Consider a locking spare key holder



# Windows

- Secure and lock windows when not in use and anytime you leave your residence
  - Including upstairs windows
- Close blinds and curtains after dark, to avoid advertising your expensive property/purchases
- Cover your garage windows
- Consider replacing doors with window
  - Many older homes have side garage doors with windows



# Lighting

- Make sure your home is well lit!
- Exterior and Motion Activated Lighting
  - Front Door
  - Side Yard
  - Back Yard
    - \*\*Electric and Solar Options
- Install timers on interior lighting
  - Set them for random times both day and night



# Alarm Systems

- **Turn them ON!!**
- Ensure your Alarm is updated and test regularly
- Update Contact Info with your Alarm Company
- Install signs and place window stickers
- If out of town/state/country, ensure the Alarm Company has a local “Emergency Contact” on file.



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# Emergency Contact

- Emergency Contact should have:
  - Knowledge of your home and property
    - Is anything out of place?
    - Is anything missing?
  - Access to your home
    - Gate/Alarm code
    - Keys to your home
    - Deputies may need to enter to ensure no one is inside.



# Surveillance Camera Systems

- One of our Best Tools for Enforcement
- Passive System, records 24/7
- Used to Tell the “Story”
- Cost vs. Resolution
- Wired vs. Wi-Fi



# Surveillance System Resolution

## ■ Analog Systems (Low Resolution)

- ❑ 480p resolution
- ❑ Provides awareness
- ❑ Comparable to older analog TVs

## ■ HD Systems (High Resolution)

- ❑ 1080p resolution
- ❑ Provides awareness and identification
- ❑ Offered in two interfaces: HD-DSI or CAT5



# Wired Camera Systems

## ■ Pros:

- ❑ Wide Variety of Systems and Price Points
- ❑ Does Not Rely on Wi-Fi
- ❑ High-resolution
- ❑ On-site DVR

## ■ Possible Cons:

- ❑ Can Be Expensive
- ❑ Can Be Difficult to Install
- ❑ On-site DVR Can Be Stolen/Damaged



# Wired Camera System Examples



# Wireless Camera Systems

## ■ Pros:

- ❑ Scalable system (1-100 cameras)
- ❑ Easy Installation
- ❑ High-resolution
- ❑ No On-site DVR

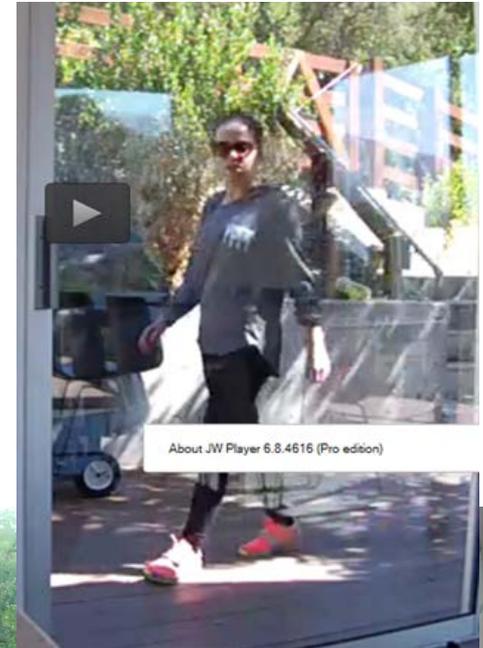
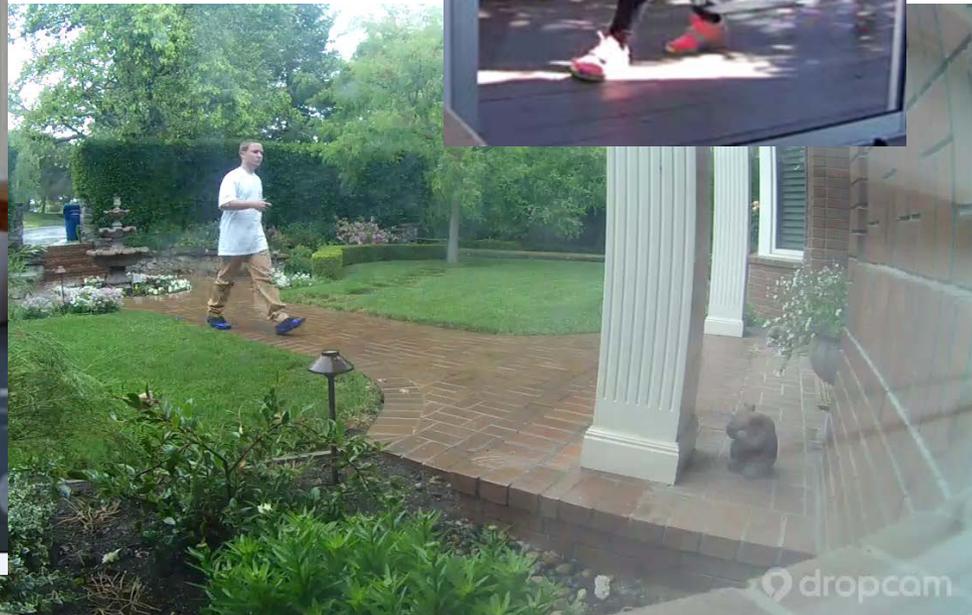
## ■ Possible Cons:

- ❑ Most Record to “the Cloud”
- ❑ Limited To Ability of Home Wi-Fi
- ❑ Requires Computer Connectivity
- ❑ Not Recommended For Outside Use



# Wireless Camera System Examples

- Can Record From Inside to Outside



# Recommendations

- Higher The Resolution, The Better
  - 1080p will capture faces and license plates
- 30-Days of Storage
- Immediate Access to Footage
- Locations
  - At least one HD camera pointed towards the street
  - Front porch
  - Side gate
  - Rear door or back sliders



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# Final Note On Cameras

- Anything Is Better Than Nothing
- Great Tool For Investigations and Neighborhood Awareness
- Footage May Help You And Others



# Preparing for a Vacation



- Let you neighbors know
  - Who knows the neighborhood better?
- Place a hold on mail with the US Post Office, and on newspaper delivery
- Go on-line to fill out a Patrol Check Request or call the West Valley Station at 408-868-6600
  - <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/Pages/pcr.aspx>



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# While On Vacation

- **DO NOT POST TO SOCIAL MEDIA!**
  - Don't advertise that no one is home
- Check in with neighbors to ensure they are looking after your home
- Check in with your Alarm Company



# Residential Security Survey

- Contact the West Valley Patrol Division
  - Phone: 408-868-6600
  - E-mail: [WVAdmin@Sheriff.sccgov.org](mailto:WVAdmin@Sheriff.sccgov.org)
  
- Request a Residential Security Survey



# Neighborhood Watch Program

- Go to National Neighborhood Watch Institute website [www.nnmi.org](http://www.nnmi.org) or call (888) 669-4872
- Order a “How to Start (and Maintain a Healthy) Neighborhood Watch Program” handbook.
  - The handbook will walk you step-by-step through the creation of a Neighborhood Watch Group



# Neighborhood Watch Signs

- Neighborhood Watch signs may be ordered through the National Neighborhood watch Institute.
- You need to contact the City to determine what kind and size of signs
- You need approval from the City if posting signs on public roadways



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# Neighborhood Watch (cont.)

- The Neighborhood Watch program is created, run, and maintained by you and your neighbors
- The “How to Start” handbook has many meeting and event ideas to get your group started and to stay active



# Vehicle Burglary Prevention



# Vehicle Burglary Prevention

- Always Lock and Activate the Alarm

- Don't "Invite" a Break-in

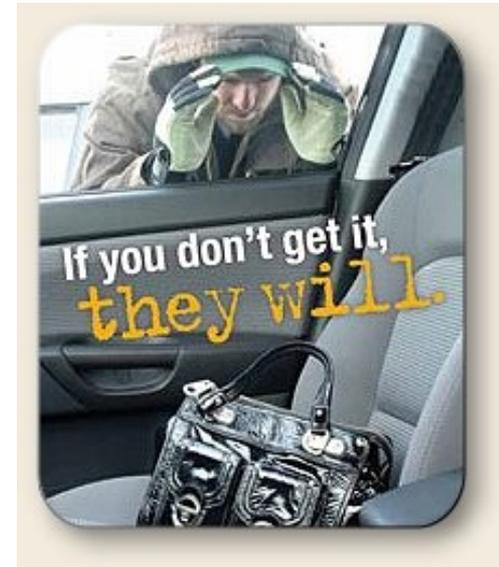
- Remove or Lock Valuables

- Purses, wallets
- Backpacks
- Electronic Equipment (Laptops, Tablets)

\*\*Vehicle Burglars always look for items with the highest return

- Park the vehicle in the garage

- Place Motion Activated Lighting in your driveway
- Lock the Garage



# Vehicle Burglary Prevention

## ■ Items Not To Leave In Your Vehicle

- ❑ Keys to your home
- ❑ Financial documents
- ❑ Credit Cards
- ❑ Extra Vehicle Keys



## ■ Don't Provide Opportunity For Additional Crimes

- ❑ Residential Burglary
- ❑ Identity Theft.

## ■ Consider a Vehicle Safe



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# HOW TO BE A GOOD WITNESS



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# Be A Good Witness

## ■ Location

- ❑ Your Exact Location
- ❑ Allow the Dispatcher to ask you questions
- ❑ Do Not Hang Up!

## ■ Activity

- ❑ What is suspicious about the person/vehicle?
- ❑ Where did this occur?
- ❑ When did it occur?



# Be A Good Witness-Suspect

## ■ Suspect

- ❑ Gender
- ❑ Approximate age
- ❑ Race
- ❑ Height and weight or build type
- ❑ Skin tone
- ❑ Clothing description (hat, coat, shirt, etc.)
- ❑ Hair color and style (including facial hair)
- ❑ Eye color and shape, glasses
- ❑ Tattoos, scars, birthmarks
- ❑ Weapons (gun, knife, stick, walking cane)
- ❑ Direction suspect fled to and how?
- ❑ Suspect's identity (if you know)
- ❑ Other distinguishing features
- ❑ Last direction of travel



# Be A Good Witness-Vehicle

## ■ Vehicle

- Remember the acronym

“**CLAMMS**”

**C** = Color of car

**L** = License plate number

**A** = Additional distinguishing features  
(stickers, special rims, body damage)

**M** = Make (Ford, BMW, Mini)

**M** = Model (2-door, 4-door, truck, SUV)

**S** = State of license plate if not CA

- How many occupants?

- Last direction of travel



# Additional Suggestions

- Property Lists
  - Create a list of High-value Possessions
    - Electronics, jewelry, art, firearms
    - Including description, serial number, value
      - \*\*Include photos or a CD of photos
    - Place this list in a secure location
- Create A Video Inventory Of Possessions
  - Video record a history of your possessions
    - Include a verbal description, serial number and value



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# REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



# Reporting Suspicious Activity

- Our Deputies Want To Catch Bad Guys!
  - We need your help
  - You know who/what belongs and doesn't
  
- Please Report Suspicious
  - Persons
  - Vehicles
  - Activity
  - Packages



# Reporting Suspicious Activity

- Deputies Will Respond To Investigate
- Our Ability To Contact Persons Is Governed By
  - California Penal Code
  - Department Policies and Procedures
  - Federal Law
  - Case Law

\*In most cases, Deputies must develop their own Reasonable Suspicion to stop and question someone



# Solicitors in the City of Saratoga

- In the City of Saratoga, most solicitors are required to have a permit issued by the City\*\*
  - Ask to see it
  - If they don't have one, call the Sheriff's Office
- Post a “No Soliciting” or “Soliciting Prohibited” sign
  - Even with a permit, it is a violation to ignore the sign.

\*\*Those soliciting for Religious, Political, Charitable, or Educational purposes are exempt from requiring a permit



# Strangers At Your Door

- **RESPOND** to the “knock” by talking through the door. By not responding, the person may assume no one is home & they may try your doors or go around back ...
- Never open your door for a stranger
- If a delivery or repair person arrives without notice, do not let them into your home. Verify with their company.
- If they refuse to show ID or company states they don't have appointment scheduled, **Call 911**



# How To Report Suspicious Incidents

- Report Immediately
  - Time is of the essence
- Emergency 9-1-1
- Non-emergency
  - Sheriff's Dispatch 408-299-2311



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# In Conclusion

- Criminals are generally lazy! Be aware of and prevent against **Crimes of Opportunity!**
- Lock your doors and windows (house/vehicle)
- Turn on alarms and keep info up to date
- Secure all valuables in a secure location out of sight if in a vehicle
- Be aware of your surroundings and who is around you



# In Conclusion (Cont.)

- We want to know about suspicious activities in your neighborhood. You are the best person to recognize problems
- Call 9-1-1, as soon as possible. Don't hesitate by over-thinking it. We need the information as you see it.
- Never place your personal safety or the safety of those around you in jeopardy. Make a mental picture of the suspect(s) and/or vehicle.
- Never confront the suspect(s). Do not follow suspect(s)
- **Be a good witness**, not a potential victim.





[Saratoga.ca.us/](http://Saratoga.ca.us/)

408-868-1200

Monday-Thursday

7:30-5:00

Friday

8:00-5:00

Closed every other

Friday



Sheriff's Office  
West Valley  
Substation

(408) 868-6600  
8am to 5pm

Emergencies  
**CALL 9-1-1**

Non-emergency  
(408) 299-2311