



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

Issue 4

October - December 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOOLS FOR BEING A GOOD WITNESS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BUNCO SCAMS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SAVE THE DATE- BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING</b>	<b>3</b>



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The Downey Police Department would like to wish you and your family a safe and peaceful Holiday Season. We understand this time of year can be very busy, which means people can become complacent. Please share the following crime prevention information with your families and neighbors:

### Stay Safe While Shopping

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- When shopping at night, park in well-lit areas.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat or floor board of your vehicle. (i.e. shopping bags, boxes or purses).
- Store gifts in your trunk; vehicle burglars look for items left in plain view as an easy opportunity for theft.
- Try to do all of your shopping at one time to avoid multiple trips to your vehicle while at a shopping center.

### Online Shopping

- Be cautious when purchasing gift cards. Thieves have been known to write down the card numbers, and once the card is activated they use the funds.
- During the holiday season there tends to be an increase in the theft of packages from front porches. To avoid being a victim of theft, you can do one of the following:
  - Request packages to be signed for when delivered.
  - Have packages delivered to a pick up station. (i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc.).

### Staying Safe at Home

- Be extra cautious by locking entry doors and windows.
- When leaving home for an extended period of time, have a family member or neighbor check on your house and pick up your mail.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows or doors of your home.

**If you'll be away from home for an extended period of time, you may request extra patrol by calling Downey P.D. Dispatch at (562) 904-2491**

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/k28hxqy>

## DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 • **Business Line (562) 861-0771**  
**Neighborhood Watch • (562) 904-2374 • jpreda@downeyca.org**

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

## REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The Downey Police Department relies on our residents to contact Police Dispatch if they see or hear suspicious activity. Please call our dispatchers at **562-904-2491**. If it is an emergency dial **9-1-1**.

A suspicious activity refers to any incident, event or individual that seems unusual or out of place such as:

- A stranger loitering in your neighborhood or an unfamiliar vehicle cruising the street repeatedly.
- An individual looking into cars or windows.
- A high volume of traffic coming from a home on a daily basis.
- Strange odors coming from a home, building or vehicle.
- Sounds of breaking glass, gunshots, screaming or fighting.
- Abandoned vehicles

**\*Please report suspicious incidents to our dispatchers. Although it is important to notify your neighbors and keep everyone informed, it is imperative that dispatch is notified immediately. This allows them to send officers out to assess suspicious activity. Often times, Neighborhood Watch members call their Block Captains to report information which creates a delay in the Police Department being able to act on the information.**

## BEING A GOOD WITNESS

For years, Neighborhood Watch members have been referred to as extra "eyes and ears" for law enforcement. Therefore, it is important to utilize the following observational skills when observing suspicious persons, incidents and vehicles:

### When observing suspicious people:

- Stay calm, safe and alert.
- Provide police dispatch with the location of the incident.
- Provide police dispatch with suspect description, including their gender, race, age, height/weight, clothing and identifying information such as facial hair, glasses, hats, etc.

### When observing suspicious vehicles:

- Provide police dispatch with a description of the vehicle including: the make and model of the vehicle, license plate number, body type, color and any other details such as bumper stickers or logos.
- Do not be discouraged if you can't provide a full license plate number. Even a partial license plate can be useful in identifying a vehicle. Provide dispatch with the information you are able to gather.

### Reminders:

- Do not touch or handle anything in the area of the crime. If the crime scene is disturbed, it may prevent our forensics department from obtaining fingerprints or collecting DNA.

## CITY OF DOWNEY DIRECTORY

### City Hall

(562) 904-7246

### Police Department

(562) 861-0771

Dispatch - (562) 904-2491

### Neighborhood Watch

(562) 904-2374

### Fire Department

(562) 904-7345

### Code Enforcement

(562) 904-2392

### Graffiti Removal Hotline

(562) 923-4484

### Emergency Preparedness

(562) 904-7347

### Business Watch

(562) 923-2191

### Gangs Out of Downey

(562) 904-3514

### Shopping Carts

(800) 252-4613

### Animal Control

(562) 803-3301

## BUNCO SCAMS



In September of this year, the Downey Police Department warned the public to be cautious of scam artists who attempt to swindle money from unsuspecting residents. A 70-year-old Downey resident received a phone

call from the suspect who represented himself as an IRS agent. The suspect claimed the victim owed \$30,000.00 in back taxes, and instructed him to make deposits into two bank accounts. The suspect told the victim he would be arrested if he didn't follow directions. After making the deposits, the victim contacted the IRS and found that he had been scammed.

Below are a few tips that can help the public avoid becoming the victim of telephone scams:

- Never give personal information, such as bank account numbers, Personal Identification Number (PIN), or Social Security number to anyone over the phone.
- The Downey Police Department and other government agencies will never ask you to get a money order, gift card or to transfer money as a method of payment.
- Hang up the telephone on aggressive or harassing solicitors.
- If being solicited by a charitable organization, do not give cash. Make checks payable to the charity, not the individual asking for donations. Never give a solicitor a credit card number.
- Be wary of solicitations that include an offer to send a courier to your house to immediately pick up your donation.

## BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING



### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING



Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Barbara J. Riley Community &  
Senior Center - Downey Room  
7810 Quill Street, Downey 90242

**The Downey Police Department  
Neighborhood Watch Program  
would like to invite all of our  
Neighborhood Watch Captains to  
participate in an Emergency  
Preparedness Training instructed  
by City of Downey Emergency  
Manager, Andrew Stevens**

---

**For more information or to reserve a  
seat, please contact Jennifer Burkhardt  
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
(562) 904-2374**

---