



**49ERS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-DOG
NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2012**
Bob Scala and Claire Place, Editors



School is out for the summer and many of us are leaving town to escape the summer heat! Things slow down a bit in 49er Country Club Estates during the hot days of summer, but there are still many reasons to remain safety conscious!

Home Security – Are you going out of town over the summer? Remember to let your neighbors know you'll be away, and stop the mail and newspaper, or ask a neighbor or house sitter to pick up items for you. Papers, mail and unattended homes are signals to burglars that you are out of town. Remember to reschedule other deliveries like bottled water, packages, etc. that may be left at your door.

Postal Service Mail Hold - <https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/request.do>

AZ Daily Star Delivery Hold - <https://staging.tucson.com/ezaccess/>

Cataloging your Valuables – A Good Summer Security Project!



The Pima County Sheriff suggests using a digital camera to photograph your valuables, making sure to include any distinguishing marks, such as scratches, dents or dings that can be used to identify the item. Include in the photograph a 3x5 card with the item's name, make and model, estimated original cost paid, and any serial numbers on the item. Burn a disk with those photographs and store it securely in a safe deposit box or safe, where it cannot be taken along with the items.

This is extremely important both to increase the chances of having your items returned if found, and to aid the law enforcement agencies in prosecuting the criminals.



Pedestrian and Personal Safety – Many residents are now taking advantage of the early morning and evening hours to exercise. Please be watchful for pedestrians and bicyclists during these low-lighting situations. There are also many neighborhood children out exploring. Keep an eye out for them, and please secure your pool enclosures to guard against accidents.

Neighborhood Security

Suspicious Vehicles and Suspicious Persons - Our community has regular security patrols conducted by Dictograph Security. This service is paid for with HOA Dues. In addition, the Rincon Branch of the Sheriff's Department is close at hand and responds promptly to calls regarding suspicious activity.



Our best, first line of defense is an alert and aware citizenry. Be conscious of persons or vehicles that don't "seem to belong." There was a recent incident where a pick-up truck parked at the end of one of our streets, and the driver removed a bicycle from the back and began riding through the neighborhood. A repeat performance was enough to prompt a call to the Sheriff's Department who quickly investigated.

This is a great example of Neighborhood Watch at work!

Wildlife/Pet Safety

Can you identify these desert residents?



You may have heard we recently had a mountain lion sighting on Fennimore Ave. Please read the important information and safety tips regarding mountain lions at this website hosted by the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.
http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/urban_lion.shtml

Also at this time of year rattlesnakes and toads are quite active. Dogs should be kept away from venomous creatures, such as the Western Diamondback rattlesnake. You are most likely to meet up with a rattlesnake on a summer evening after the sun has gone down. Be on the lookout also for the poisonous Colorado River Toad, or *Bufo alvarius*. This type of toad comes out of hibernation with the summer monsoons. There have been several sightings following the weekend thunderstorm!

There has been a lot of pocket gopher activity along the golf course. Please make informed choices about methods of gopher eradication, if you find it necessary to do so. Many of us remember the tragic deaths and critical illness of several neighborhood dogs due to inadvertent poisoning last year in June. There are many methods other than poison pellets that may be used. Please research your options carefully and be responsible with the use of any poisonous agents.



The Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center is a center of excellence at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. The center is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).

Free • Confidential

24 hours a day • 7 days a week

www.pharmacy.arizona.edu/centers/arizona-poison-drug-information-center

Rattlesnake Basics

The following is taken from a recent newspaper article on the subject.

Snakebite information

Call 1-800-222-1222 anytime for information on snakebites. The line is operated by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at the University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy.

- The Rural/Metro Fire Department will remove rattlesnakes at no charge to subscribers. Call 297-3600.

General information

- Southern Arizona is home to 11 species of rattlesnakes - or 18 if you count subspecies.
- Peak daytime activity is in the spring and in September and October. Snakes are often out at night during the hot summer season.

Safety strategies

- Don't mess with rattlesnakes. Don't try to pick them up, poke them with sticks or play with them - none of that. If you see a snake, go the other direction.
- Watch where you walk, reach and sit. Stay on the trail if you're out for a hike and always watch where you put your hands and feet. Don't sit on something unless you've checked it first.
- Here's what to do if you don't notice a snake until you're within striking range which is about one-half to two-thirds of the body length of the snake. The best thing is to stay still and let the snake move away from you. If you absolutely have to move, you want to move slowly away from it. Avoid sudden movements because sudden movements might elicit a strike.

Survive a snake bite

- Get to a health-care facility as quickly and safely as possible. Most bites require antivenin. The problems to be treated are tissue damage and bleeding disorders.

- Don't apply ice, use a tourniquet or make incisions around the bite. Those things can actually do more harm than good.
- Don't increase your risk by trying to kill or capture the snake. All rattlesnake bites are treated with the same antivenin.



Protect Your Computer – Malware

This material was taken from an IT security message used in a major university

What is malware?

Malware is short for "malicious software." It includes viruses and spyware that get installed on your computer, phone, or mobile device without your consent. These programs can cause your device to crash and can be used to monitor and control your online activity. Criminals use malware to steal personal information, send spam, and commit fraud.

Is my computer infected?

Your computer may be infected with malware if it

- slows down, crashes, or displays repeated error messages
- serves up a barrage of pop-ups
- displays web pages you didn't intent to visit, or sends emails you didn't write

Other warning signs of malware include:

- new and unexpected toolbars
- new and unexpected icons in your shortcuts or on your desktop
- a sudden or repeated change in your computer's internet home page
- a laptop battery that drains more quickly than it should

How to avoid malware

- Update your operating system and Web browser software, and set your browser security high enough to detect unauthorized downloads

- Use anti-virus and anti-malware software, as well as a two-way firewall, and update them regularly
- Download free software only from sites you know and trust. Enticing free software downloads frequently contain other software, including spyware
- Don't click on links in pop-ups
- Don't click on links in spam or pop-ups that claim to offer anti-malware software

Good Neighbors One of the most attractive things about our community is the rich mixture of age groups. School buses pick up children on streets where senior citizens also live. It is to the latter that we all have a special obligation. Be concerned about seniors, especially those living alone. If they do not appear to pick up the paper or mail or lights don't go on at the usual time, pick up the phone and call to see whether everything is all right.

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION:

Emergency.....9-1-1
 Non-Emergency.....351-4900
 Rincon Substation.....351-4511
 88-CRIME.....882-7463
 Claire Place, Neighborhood Watch Area Leader.....749-0879



49ers Neighborhood Watch Program:
49ersNeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com

49er's Home Owner's Association:
<http://49ershoa.com/>
 Check here regularly for neighborhood information and updates.

TPD and PCSD Crime Mapper Tool:
<http://www.crimereports.com/>
 Use this service to see a summary of area crimes over a designated time frame.

PCSD On-Line Crime Reporting:
<http://pimasheriff.org/online-services/> Use this link when you need to report a variety of non-emergency crimes. This site does not allow you to report suspicious activity. Any suspicious activity or person should be immediately reported via 9-1-1.

PCSD *Nixle*:
<http://local.nixle.com/register/>
Nixle is a community information service providing one source for access to credible real-time community information via alerts received on your cellular text message or email message services. Register to receive updates according to your preferences.