

# 49ERS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-DOG NEWSLETTER!

Fall 2010

Bob Scala & Cathy Rankin, Editors

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

*Claire Place,  
Area Leader*

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Our current 49ers Neighborhood Watch Program is 5 years old!

A dedicated group of volunteers re-activated our program by canvassing the area in 2005. Our block leaders continue to promote the program within their block areas. We have been able to grow our program to include a majority of our neighbors. We have a good working relationship with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, and have a responsive, comprehensive program in place in coordination with our 49ers HOA.

One of the important ways in which the 49er Golf & CC HOA has assisted our program is by funding the private security patrolling provided by Dictograph Security. If you haven't paid your HOA dues, or are still thinking about joining, please do! Let them know that you appreciate this service.

Our 49er's HOA has also approved funding to add "No Solicitation" signage on our existing security sign poles, provided by the Pima County DOT. We hope to add 2 signs each year until we have full area coverage. They will be funded by our Neighborhood Watch budget line. The additional signage has

been requested by our Neighborhood Watch Block Leaders and area residents.

If you would like to see more signs faster, please consider donating a small amount to the "No Solicitation Sign Fund." Each 18x24 sign costs \$27.



## FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR & AREA SECURITY

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The Flood of July 2010 is still very much in the minds of our 49er's Community. To those who suffered loss from that wall of water that came down from the Rincons, we hope your recovery is proceeding along a favorable path.

As a result of this flood, there have been many more contractors and other service providers in our neighborhood. Along with these legitimate business people, there is sometimes the presence of the unscrupulous and opportunistic.

Our Area Leader, Claire Place, has circulated e-mails regarding suspicious or criminal behavior. *Situational awareness* means that we all are alert to who is in the area and why. Call 9-1-1 if you have concerns or see something wrong. Three documents related to flood damage and recovery were sent

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earlier to members of the HOA, but if you have misplaced your copy, please contact your editor or Claire Place and we will e-mail the material to you.



## CHILD SAFETY

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School has started up again and we have school buses in the neighborhood and children walking to and from their stops or waiting for the bus. When you are driving, please be especially alert for the presence of these young people.

The HAWK light at Fennimore and Tanque Verde provides a safe crossing for students walking to Tanque Verde Elementary School. The crossing is not always attended, so special care is needed when driving in that area at school start and release times. Thank you!

## PLEASE, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

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Finally, your editors again ask our readers to take a moment to think about what it means to be a "good neighbor."

We can look after the elderly or homebound who live in 49ers. They need to know that someone cares. We can be in a position to respond if they need help.

We can be aware and take action. If you witness strange or suspicious behavior, please don't assume that "it will be all right" or "it's just

kids." Call the authorities if you have suspicions or sense that something is amiss. You may help prevent property damage, or even save someone's life.



## PERSONAL COMPUTER SECURITY

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Here are two very useful computer security items received from a major university IT security group.

### 1) Passwords

#### **Strong Passwords Are Important!**

A study by the CERT/CC at Carnegie Mellon University estimated that 80% of all network security problems are caused by bad passwords. A weak password can allow hackers to infect your computer with viruses, to access your personal information, or to send spam from your email account. If hackers can guess your user name and password, you might as well have just given them your wallet and the keys to your home. The easiest way to protect your computer and data is to have a strong password. Fortunately it is not hard to create a strong password.

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## 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](mailto:49ersNeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com)

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

**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. See  
the attachment provided for detailed  
information about on-line reporting.

**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.

**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.

**Pima County Safelink** web address is  
no longer a working address. Please  
remove it from your information.



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## How to Create a Strong Password or Passphrase

The more of these features you use, the harder your password will be to guess or crack!

A. Passwords should be a minimum of 8 characters:

- Each additional character strengthens the protection of the password being used. The ideal password length is anything greater than 14 characters.

B. Combine letters, numbers, and symbols:

- The greater variety of characters that you have in your password, the harder it is to guess.
- The fewer types of characters in your password, the longer it must be. A 15-character password composed only of random letters and numbers is about 33,000 times stronger than an 8-character password composed of characters from the entire keyboard. If you cannot create a password that contains symbols, you need to make it considerably longer to get the same degree of protection. An ideal password combines both length and different types of symbols.

- Use the entire keyboard, not just the most common characters. Symbols typed by holding down the "Shift" key and typing a number are very common in passwords. Your password will be much stronger if you choose from all the symbols on the keyboard, including punctuation marks not on the upper row of the keyboard, and any symbols unique to your language.

## Suggestions for a Strong Password or Passphrase

A. Use the first letter of each word from a line in a book, song, or poem. For example: "Who ya gonna call? Ghost Busters!" becomes Wygc?GB!"

B. Use numbers, letters, and punctuation to create a passphrase like a vanity license plate.

For example:

Time off = T1me#0ff

I hate snow = 1H8sn0w!

NOTE: Do not use these examples as your password!

NOTE: Not all systems can support case sensitivity, special characters, or long passwords. In these cases, it's even more important to use a mix of alphabetic and numeric characters and to avoid words and names.

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## Password methods to AVOID

- Avoid sequences or common strings: (ex: 123456; 111111; ABCDEF; QWERTY; AAAAAA)
- Avoid the use of any information with personal significance: (ex: your pet's name, birthday, favorite football team, etc.) These are the first things a hacker will attempt.
- Avoid dictionary words in any language

## How to Keep your Passwords Safe

- Do not use the same password for everything. Use a few different ones. For instance, be sure not to use the same password for an unofficial, casual, or uncritical service (such as free online games) as you use for more critical services (such as online banking). You may find it helpful to think in terms of two kinds of passwords: your "outside" password for use at remote web sites and your "inside password" for use on financial systems.
- Never write your password down. If you can't remember

it, then it's not a good password.

- Never share your password with others. You wouldn't share your toothbrush or your underwear with a friend, so why share your password?
- Do not allow websites to "remember" your password. Take the extra five seconds to type it in each time you visit a website--it's worth it!
- Log out every time you access your personal accounts. Be sure to log out of your personal accounts, such as online bill payment systems, e-mail, and even Facebook, especially when you are using public access computers. This will ensure that the next user does not have access to your accounts or browsing history.
- Change your password regularly. Unlike keys or an ATM card, your password does not have to be physically taken to be copied, and it's unlikely you'll know when your password has been stolen.
- Make sure that any website which requires your password is protected by Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). Look for the web address to

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being with https: or for a yellow lock icon to be located in the browser. These sites encrypt data in order to securely transmit private information such as credit card numbers.

## 2) **Phishing**

The second item relates to "phishing." If you are ever asked to click on an email link to provide security or personal information, use extreme caution! Most of these request types are actually "phishing scams" to obtain your secure information.

Lenders, brokerages, and banks would never ask for confidential information via e-mail, as it is not a secure method. If you have a question, call the business entity and ask. They can confirm appropriate information requests.

*SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE  
ARTICLES REGARDING PERSONAL,  
PROPERTY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD  
SAFETY CONCERNS ARE  
APPRECIATED AND MAY BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE EDITORS!*

[49ersNeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com](mailto:49ersNeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com)