

49ERS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-DOG NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

Bob Scala and Claire Place, Editors



Neighborhood Watch Report

Claire Place, Area Leader

Hello 49er Neighbors, and welcome back if you've been away for the hot summer months! We have had a mostly quiet summer here in our beautiful 49ers community. I would like to extend a welcome to any new neighbors who may have moved in over the summer, and invite you to join the Neighborhood Watch Program. My contact information may be found at the end of this newsletter.

Please pay special attention to the article below regarding **Mail Theft**. We are having a problem with this in 49ers which needs our immediate attention!

I would like to thank Cathy Rankin and Bob Scala for their efforts to publish this periodic Watch Dog Newsletter for several years now. Cathy is finding it necessary to step down from her editor job. Many thanks are due Cathy for her commitment to our program as a former block leader and newsletter editor. Bob and I will continue the tradition, and will strive to provide you with news and timely reminders regarding property, community and personal safety.

Please feel free to pass this issue on! Encourage your neighbors to become part of the neighborhood watch program if they are not yet.

I have notified the local post office and the Postal Inspectors office of the recent incidents of theft from mailboxes in the 49ers area. Upon inquiry, I was told that there has been a large increase in this type of activity in the Tucson area. There have been samples of mail taken for fingerprinting, and they believe it is probably a group operation. The Postal Inspector asked that any litter left behind from a mailbox theft be collected in a bag and given to our local carrier. Ask them to direct it to the Postal Inspector.

He also advised me that the best way to secure your mail in the type of mailboxes we have in 49ers is through the installation of a "Mailbox Locking Insert." I found them online for approximately \$40. The insert looks like a safety deposit box, and it is installed inside a standard mailbox with one-way screws. It has a slot in the locking door which allows mail delivery but prevents theft.

If you have experienced mail theft, please submit a report on-line, at: <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/forms/mlintrc vd.aspx> The local Tucson Postal Inspector stated that it will help them to know where the current hot spots are for mail theft if they receive such reports.

The following important information is from the U.S. Postal Service article, "How to Protect Against Thieves"

Every day, the U.S. Postal Service safely and efficiently delivers millions of checks, money orders, credit cards and other valuable items. Unfortunately, such items of value are also attractive to thieves.



MAIL THEFT

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That's why Postal Inspectors across the country are at work to protect your mail. But with deliveries to more than 100 million addresses, the Postal Inspection Service can't do the job alone.

Here's what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- *Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.*
- *Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items. If you won't be home when the items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.*
- *Have your local post office hold your mail while you're on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time.*
- *If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.*
- *If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.*
- *Always deposit your mail in a mail slot at your local post office, or hand it to your letter carrier.*
- *Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes). If you observe a mail thief at work, call the local police immediately, and then*

call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455.

If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster or nearest Postal Inspector. You'll be asked to file a formal complaint using [PS Form 2016, Mail Theft and Vandalism Complaint](#). By analyzing information collected from the form, Postal Inspectors may determine whether your problem is isolated or part of a larger mail theft problem in your neighborhood--and it may help Postal Inspectors locate and apprehend the thieves.

Consult with your local postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

If you feel that you are a victim of a crime involving the mail, [submit an on-line complaint](#)."



Back to School

Schools have re-opened and the "yellow limousines" are back on the streets of our community. Children will be walking to bus stops about the same time as some folks are driving to work. Please keep an eye out for the little ones. In addition, we celebrate the opening of Emily Gray Jr. High School at the corner of Tanque Verde and Tanque Verde Loop roads. There is now much more traffic in that area than before and special care is needed, particularly where the school bus lane is concerned.

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Please also be aware that a speed limit reduction (35mph) has recently been implemented by the Pima County Dept. of



Transportation in front of Emily Gray Jr. High School on Tanque Verde Road, and a crosswalk will soon be installed with morning and afternoon crossing guards. Please use caution and be good neighbors to our newly relocated junior high school!

Strychnine Poisoning

The recent unfortunate and unnecessary death of pets walking on the golf course from what is believed to be strychnine poisoning raised concerns over the source of this agent. Was it from much earlier use as a rodenticide? In such a case, the chemical may have finally come to the surface where dogs could come in contact. Was it used maliciously? Of course we hope not. Regardless, care needs to be exercised when walking pets on the cart paths or course. Please be reminded of the Pima County Leash Law, and continue to be considerate of our golf course neighbors.



West Nile Virus

This is the time of year which brings not only welcome summer rains, but also mosquitoes. These pests can



be carriers of West Nile Virus and are able to transmit the virus to animals and humans. One clear early sign of viral effects is the presence of dead birds. Most humans infected by the virus are not aware of it because they may continue to feel fine. The symptoms can vary considerably and only a very small percentage of affected persons may become severely ill. Typical symptoms in those who do show effects from the viral infection include headache, fever, body aches, rash and swollen lymph glands. In that very small percentage of serious cases the signs and symptoms are consistent with encephalitis or meningitis (brain inflammations).

What to do? The obvious answer is to reduce the opportunity for mosquitoes to breed in our area. That means removing all sources of standing water such as flower pots, pet food and water containers, buckets, barrels, cans, discarded tires and pool covers. In birdbaths or similar materials change the water two or three times a week. It is also important to protect yourself from mosquito bites by staying indoors at peak biting times – dawn, dusk and early evening. Make certain that door and window screen are intact and wear long sleeved shirts and long pants. Use of appropriate insect repellents is also recommended as long as the label instructions are followed carefully. For those of us in 49er's we can also alert the golf course management to areas of standing water on the course that do not dry out during the day.

Identity Theft

DETER. DETECT. DEFEND
Avoid Identity Theft
Check out this pamphlet from the Federal Trade



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Commission for helpful information about avoiding identity theft
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idth01.pdf>

AND Read more important tips about avoiding the "6 Mistakes" from the following article, excerpted from the real Danny Lents at www.IdTheftAwareness.com

Do You Make These 6 Mistakes To help Your Identity Thief?

- #1 You expose your social security number. Your social security number is the pot of gold for your identity thief.
- #2 You are careless with your mail. Your thief loves your mail and you provide easy access for him.
- #3 You don't secure sensitive information. Many times the identity thief knows their victims and has easy access to sensitive data.
- #4 You don't check your credit reports. Monitoring your credit report is your best opportunity to detect identity theft.
- #5 You don't scrutinize your bills and bank statements. Many people use their credit cards for daily purchases. Thieves may charge small amounts hoping you don't notice.
- #6 You enter sensitive information on public computers. Public computers are convenient, but it's no place to enter sensitive information.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Emergency.....9-1-1
Non-Emergency.....351-4900
Rincon Substation.....351-4511
88-CRIME.....882-7463

49ers Neighborhood Watch Program:

49ersNeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com

Claire Place, Neighborhood Watch Area Leader.....749-0879

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

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.