



# QUARTERLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



450 E. Latham Ave., Hemet, CA 92543 Phone: (951) 765-2400 FAX: (951) 765-2412 November, 2015

## Welcome!

Today, Hemet faces significant challenges as we provide law enforcement services to an ever changing community, with fewer resources and reduced manpower.

There is much talk about “community based policing” across America. The reality is that the Hemet Police Department has always been a true community police department. Our ranks are comprised of mostly Valley residents who have a personal stake in keeping our community safe. As such, our strong commitment to addressing quality-of-life issues will continue to drive our decisions and deployment of resources.

Please enjoy our newsletter, and let us know if there is anything we can do to improve it! We strive to provide *Excellence in Service*.

Please tell us how we're doing at: <http://cityofhemet.info>



*“I am proud to represent the fine men and women; sworn, civilian and volunteer, who make up this great department....”*

*- Chief David Brown*

## Neighborhood Watch - Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!

Early detection is the best way to prevent the onset of bigger problems. Paying attention to small problems ahead of time, can save you from having to face larger and more difficult ones down the road.

What can neighbors do? Neighbors can report unusual incidents to law enforcement. Always keep emergency numbers handy so you can quickly report any suspicious activity or emergency. **951-765-2400** is the **NON-EMERGENCY** number for **Hemet Police**. Put this in your phone directory! When calling be sure to give the reason for the call and the location. Be on the lookout for:

- Someone looking into windows and parked cars
- Unusual noises, screaming or shouting
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle
- Property being taken out of a closed business or house where no one is home
- Cars, vans, trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.

## In This Issue

- Neighborhood Watch
- Home Security Tips
- Are You a Victim of Identity Theft?
- Protect Your Personal Information
- Reduce Unsolicited Mail, Phone Calls, and Email
- If Your ATM, Credit, or Debit Card is Lost
- Financial Elder Abuse

*continued*



## Getting Started With Your Neighborhood Watch!

It is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area

residents, helps reduce burglaries, and improves relations between police and the community they serve. It's all good. It should be in your 'hood! Visit our [NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH](#) page.

### Start Your Watch

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents; a community organized can spearhead the efforts to establish a Watch. Together they:

- Organize a small planning committee to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems.
- Contact Hemet Police for help in training members in home security and reporting skills: **951 765-2415**
- Get information on local crime trends.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors interest, establish the purpose of the program, identify issues that need to be addressed.
- Select a coordinator.
- Ask for block captains who will be responsible for relaying information to members.
- Recruit new neighbors / members.
- Work with HPD to put up Neighborhood Watch signs; usually after at least 50 percent of all households are enrolled.

Neighborhood Watch groups can be formed around any geographical unit: a block, apartment building, townhouse complex, park, business area, public housing complex, office buildings, etc.



### Your Responsibilities as a Neighborhood Watch Member

- Be Alert!
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report suspicious activities.
- Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer.

## Crime Reports

The Hemet Police Department is dedicated to providing up-to-date crime statistics to the community we serve.

The quickest way to gather this information is to utilize a web-based program called [CrimeReports.com](#). Simply follow the link and enter the information you are looking for.

If you would like additional information, not contained within the website, please contact us at **951-765-2410** during normal business hours.



### Pay Attention To Details! Report Accurately!



Contact Hemet Police to report your sightings. If it is a real emergency, dial **911**, otherwise, please use the non-emergency number:

**951-765-2400.**

- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe suspect: sex and race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as beard, mustaches, scars or accent.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved: color, make, model, year, license plate and special features such as stickers or body damage.

Project ChildSafe®

[www.projectchildsafe.org](http://www.projectchildsafe.org)



Project ChildSafe® is a nationwide program that helps ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage.

As a firearm owner, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to know how to secure your firearm in a safe manner.

- Keep weapons out of reach from children
- Keep your finger off the trigger
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded
- Keep firearms unloaded when not in use
- Store ammunition separately from firearms.



*Learn more about  
firearms safety at:*

[www.nssf.org/safety](http://www.nssf.org/safety)

## Home Security Tips — It starts with a good inventory of what you own.

With a good inventory of your possessions, you will be able to buy the correct amount of insurance you need. You will also have claims processed faster, be able to verify losses, keep track of the belongings you've accumulated over the year, and be able to make an accurate and complete report in case of a burglary or fire.

### Get Started

- Take it one step at a time, go room by room. Don't forget the garage.
- By Category; furniture, electronics, tools, sports equipment, jewelry, etc.
- Newest to oldest.
- Most to least expensive.
- Record serial numbers.
- Again: SERIAL NUMBERS!



### Taking Inventory

Use a notebook, take photos, or use a video camera. Keep two copies in different locations.

### Receipts

Keep all your receipts so they are available. Note the cost of the item, when you bought it, and information about the make and model. Write **serial numbers** on receipts.

### Jewelry & Art

Expensive items may need to be insured separately. Ask your insurance agent. When in doubt, ASK.



***This is not the time to recall the contents of your home!***



## Home Security Tips

- REMEMBER: An unlocked lock is not a lock! Even if you're leaving for just a second.....lock your windows and doors.
- House numbers should be visible day and night from the street
- CLOSE your garage doors.
- Never put a first name on mailbox. Use initials or last name only.
- Keep doorways, windows and porches clear when planting bushes and flowers so as not to provide a burglar the opportunity to work undetected!
- Doors, windows, and yards should be well lighted at night.
- Don't leave notes indicating you aren't home or when you will return.
- Don't have a name or address attached to your house keys.
- Never enter your house if you see evidence of a burglary.



## Alarms

Residential alarms are very popular. Before installing a system, it is advisable to [check with the police](#) to determine if there is an [alarm ordinance](#) in your area. Most alarms will emit a loud noise. An audible alarm on doors and windows can be an effective deterrent to the amateur burglar. If you install an audible alarm, make sure your family and neighbors are informed about its function. Any alarm system should include: a failsafe battery backup; fire sensing capability (ionization sensors are best); readout

ability to check the working of the system; and a horn-sounding device installed in attic through vent. Do not depend only upon an alarm to protect you. Be sure to use proper locking devices.



## If You Think You Are A Victim of Identity Theft

Immediately report identity theft to your local police department. If the loss involves funds held in a bank or credit union, report the problem to the financial institution immediately. The FTC recommends that you immediately take the following actions:

- ◆ Create an identity theft report by securing forms from the police.
- ◆ Place an initial fraud alert with one of the three reporting companies  
Equifax: **1-800-525-6285** Experian: **1-888-397-3742** TransUnion: **1-800-680-7289**  
Or go to: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- ◆ Order your credit reports from the companies listed above. You are entitled to a free credit report every 12 months if you request it. Review reports carefully. Look for accounts you don't recognize and addresses where you have never lived.
- ◆ Consider placing an extended fraud alert or freeze on your credit.

## Tips to Avoid Cyber Fraud

- ◆ *Be cautious of emails with attached files*
- ◆ *Avoid filling out forms contained in email or pop-up messages*
- ◆ *Do not click on links in an unsolicited email*
- ◆ *Log on directly to official website for business identified in email instead of clicking on link in an unsolicited email*
- ◆ *Financial institutions **WILL NOT** request your personal information via email— contact them directly if you receive an email from an institution requesting info*
- ◆ *Wi-Fi hotspots that provide free internet access are often in coffee shops, libraries, & airports. While convenient, public Wi-Fi often are not secure. Protect your personal information while using public networks.*
- ◆ *Avoid exposing sensitive information such as your logins, passwords and your social security number*
- ◆ *If a Wi-Fi spot does not require a password, it is not secure. Other users on the network can see what you send. Your personal information, private documents, even login credentials could be accessed without your knowledge or permission.*



## Protect Your Social Security Number, Credit Card and Debit Card Numbers, PINS, and Passwords



Carry only what is necessary in your wallet or purse: a credit card, debit card, or checks. Keep the rest, including your Social Security and medicare card, in a safe place. Do not print your Social Security number, telephone number, or Driver's License number on your checks.

- ◆ Never disclose your account numbers over the phone unless you initiated the call.
- ◆ Keep a close watch on your bank and credit union account statements and credit card billing statements. Report discrepancies immediately.
- ◆ When paying for anything online, it is better to use a credit card which has more consumer protections than debit cards and checks, which draw directly from your bank account.
- ◆ Shred cancelled checks, credit card statements, and other financial documents that contain your personal and financial information.
- ◆ Never use your mother's maiden name, birth dates, phone numbers, or the last four digits of your Social Security number as passwords.
- ◆ Sign up for direct deposit of your paycheck, pension check, or government benefits. Direct deposit is safe, quick & convenient, and prevents someone from stealing your checks. It is also safer in the event of a disaster.
- ◆ Protect your incoming and outgoing mail by using a locked mailbox for your residence and promptly removing mail after it has been delivered. Deposit outgoing mail in a slot at the local Post Office or give outgoing mail directly to your postal carrier. If your mail was stolen, contact the Postal Inspector toll-free **877-876-2455** or go to: <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>.

## **Look familiar? How to Reduce Unsolicited Mail, Phone Calls, and Email**



Cut down on the number of unsolicited mailings, call, and emails you receive by NOT filling out sweepstakes entries, reviews, and web-site “registration” requests. To opt-out of receiving pre-approved credit offers call toll-free **1-888-5-OPT-OUT** or visit [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com). The phone number and website are operated by the major consumer reporting companies.

The federal government’s National Do Not Call Registry is a free, easy way to reduce the telemarketing calls you receive. To register your phone number or to get information about the registry, call toll-free **1-888-382-1222** from the phone number you want to register or visit: [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

Direct Marketing Association (DMA) has an Email Preference Service (eMPS) to help you reduced unsolicited commercial emails. To opt out of receiving these unsolicited emails, visit: [www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org).



### **If Your ATM, Credit, or Debit Card is Lost or Stolen**

Federal law limits your liability for unauthorized charges. Your protection against unauthorized charges depends on the type of card — and when you report the loss. Report the loss or theft of your card

to the card issuer as quickly as possible. Many companies have toll-free numbers and 24-hour service for such emergencies. Once you report the loss of your ATM or debit card, federal law states you cannot be held liable for unauthorized transactions.

### **If Your ATM Card, Checks, or Bank Account Information is Lost or Stolen**

Immediately notify your bank or credit union to stop payments and ask them to notify their check verification company. Follow up in writing; keep a copy and send by first-class mail, certified mail and/ or return receipt. Change your passwords. Close the account(s) and open a new account with new password. If your checks have been stolen, after contacting your financial institution, other check verification companies are: ChexSystems **1-800-428-9623**; TeleCheck **1-800-710-9898** and SCAN **1-800-262-7771**.

### **If Your Social Security Number is Stolen**

If you suspect that someone else is using your Social Security number, immediately contact the U.S. Social Security Administration at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call toll-free **1-800-722-1214**.



## Financial Elder Abuse

Financial Elder Abuse is when an older adult, or a senior is financially exploited by a stranger or someone they know, Financial elder abuse can cross all social, educational and economic boundaries and perpetrators can be family members and caregivers, friends, neighbors or acquaintances, financial advisers, or persons unknown to the senior.

## Contact Adult Protective Services

If you experience, witness or suspect abusive activities, immediately contact Adult Protective Services (APS) in the County where the seniors resides. In the white pages or your local directory under “County Government” you will find your local APS offices listed. You can also go to: [Riverside County Network of Care](#) or call 1-800-491-7123.

## Examples of Financial Exploitation

- ◆ Unauthorized use of credit cards, ATM or debit cards, or checking accounts.
- ◆ Forging a senior’s signature or deceiving a senior into signing any legal and/or financial document, especially when the senior may be unable to comprehend.
- ◆ Diverting money meant to pay the senior’s rent, utilities, taxes or other expenses.
- ◆ Significant transfers of assets, substantial loans or gifts to others.
- ◆ Revising a senior’s will or other documents, especially when the new beneficiary is a caregiver or a previously uninvolved person now claiming a right to a senior’s property.
- ◆ Promises of “lifelong care” in exchange for deeding property to caregiver.
- ◆ Wrongful use of financial Power of Attorney or fiduciary relationship.
- ◆ Selling ill-advised and unnecessary financial services or products.
- ◆ Selling fraudulent financial services or products.

## Signs of Financial Elder Abuse Include:

- ◆ Disappearing valuables or assets.
- ◆ Decline of physical and emotional well-being.
- ◆ Suspicious activities/people at a senior’s home.
- ◆ Substandard care despite adequate finances.
- ◆ Unusual bank account activity — large withdrawals (especially when senior is accompanied by another person) and unexplained changes of bank accounts from one branch to another.

The forms to assist you in filing a report of suspected elder abuse are available from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) at: [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov).

## More Free Resources

**California Department of Aging** 1-800-510-2020 [www.aging.ca.gov](http://www.aging.ca.gov)

Oversees programs serving older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout CA

**California Senior Gateway** [www.seniors.ca.gov](http://www.seniors.ca.gov)

Provides seniors, their families, and caregivers with the information they need to connect to helpful services and resources.

**California Courts Elder Abuse Self-Help** [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-elder](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-elder)

Provides information regarding elder abuse restraining orders, help finding a lawyer, family law facilitator, and local self-help centers

**Guides for Managing Someone Else's Money** 1-800-855-2372  
[www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau produces four guides designed to help financial caregivers of older adults understand their duties.

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**951-765-2400**

**Hemet Police Non-Emergency Number**



### Stay Connected With Us!

**To START/CANCEL or EDIT your e-mail subscription:**

Send e-mail to [nmiller@cityofhemet.org](mailto:nmiller@cityofhemet.org) with "Subscribe to Newsletter" "Cancel Newsletter" in or "Edit E-Mail" in subject line. Please include your new e-mail address in the e-mail.

**To DOWNLOAD and/or view Newsletter from our Website:**

Go to [www.hemetpolice.org](http://www.hemetpolice.org) then click on Community Services then Quarterly Newsletter.

**To RECEIVE TEXT and/or E-MAIL ALERTS from the Hemet Police Web-site:**

Go to [www.cityofhemet.org/list.aspx](http://www.cityofhemet.org/list.aspx) then follow the "NOTIFY ME" instructions. Select POLICE under the News Flash Heading.

**To follow us on FACEBOOK:**

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hemet-Police-Department> and LIKE US!

***We will NEVER sell, loan, rent or otherwise share your personal information!***



### **Volunteer with Us!**

The Hemet Police Department Volunteer Program was created in 1993 as a way for citizens to supplement the Hemet Police Department's sworn officers.

The intention of the program is for volunteers to perform certain tasks that otherwise would be performed by sworn police officers and thereby allowing the officers to spend more time on the streets. The volunteers operate a wide variety of services for the police department such as:

- Alzheimer Registration
- Crime Scene Call Outs
- Livescan Fingerprinting
- Parking Enforcement
- Traffic Control
- Vacation Property Checks
- Child / Adult Care
- Special Events (such as Parades, Ramona Outdoor Play)
- Much, much more

*Stop by our Main Office or sub-stations to pick up **your application** today!*