



Scott R. Jones
Sheriff

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Neighborhood Watch Sacramento County Sheriff North Division Newsletter

Orangevale / Fair Oaks / Carmichael / Antelope
Arden / Rio Linda / Elverta / Foothill Farms

Sheriff Scott R. Jones Undersheriff Rick Book
Chief Deputy Field Services Bill Johnson
North Division Commander Captain David Torgerson
Assistant Commander Lieutenant Gregory Maples
POP Field Services Supervisor, Sergeant Chris Guerrero

Winter 2013



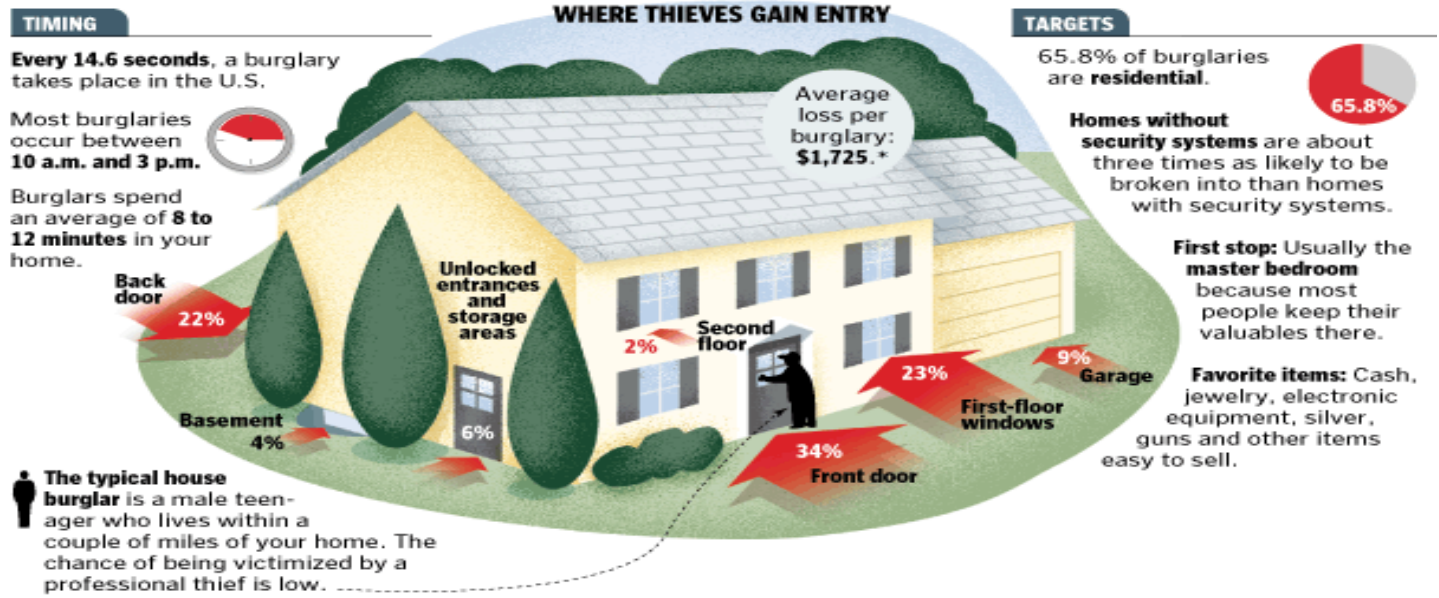
Go to www.crimereports.com for your crime stats for your street.

Protect your home from burglars, consider these prevention tips from the [National Crime Prevention Council](http://www.nationalcrimeprevention.org):

Do you hide your valuables in one of these popular hiding places?

Dresser drawer Bedroom Closet Freezer

Guess what: Those are some of the first places a crook will look.



PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied. A car in the driveway, motion-sensitive exterior lights, interior lights, and radios and TVs on timers all give the impression that someone is in the home. Stop newspaper and mail delivery, and have neighbors watch your home.

Burglars want to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into a home. Measures that raise this time — deadbolt locks, bars on windows, and pins in sash windows — might change a burglar's mind.

Don't give burglars any help. Clear shrubs and trees around your home. Don't give burglars a place to hide. Secure tool sheds and ladders. Some thieves will steal tools from around your property and use them to break windows and doors.

◆ Kick-Proof your door, your jamb is the weak point that will most likely fail when the door is kicked. Use a 1 inch deadbolt and reinforced metal strike box to keep the jamb from splintering when kicked

- ◆ All exterior doors should have heavy-duty metal security strike plates secured by 3-inch screws (do not use drywall screws).
- ◆ Install reliable locks on all external doors.
- ◆ Invest in storm doors. Locks on these doors can add an extra layer of security to your home, which can deter potential burglars from attempting to enter your home unauthorized. Storm doors are also valuable if you want to protect your home from inclement weather and provide more insulation for your home during both the summer and winter months.
- ◆ Stick a broomstick or dowel rod in the track of sliding glass doors.
- ◆ Drill a hole through the slide door frame and fixed frame of sliding glass doors, and insert a pin in the hole. This can prevent someone from lifting the door off its track.
- ◆ Use key locks for double-hung windows. Or, drill a small hole at a 45-degree angle between the inner and outer frames and insert a nail that can be removed.
- ◆ An unsecured garage door presents an opportunity for a burglar to enter your property if your garage is attached to the home or to find tools to assist him. Cover garage windows with frosted contact paper. Sunlight can come in, but no one will be able to see inside.
- ◆ Install motion-sensitive lights outside or lights with photo cells that will turn on when it's dark and off when it's light.
- ◆ Remove your last name from your mailbox. That way someone can't look up your name in the phone book and call to see if you're home.
- ◆ Prune or remove bushes around doors and windows. Cut tree limbs that could be climbed to enter a window.
- ◆ Install gravel paths near bedroom windows. The sound of footsteps on gravel may alert you to a prowler.
- ◆ Plant thorny plants along fences and under windows that can discourage access.
- ◆ Park a vehicle in the driveway. Not only will your house look occupied, but a burglar also won't be able to back up and load a van.
- ◆ Get a dog if you can manage a pet. You don't need a large attack dog; even a small dog creates a disturbance that burglars would prefer to avoid. Remember to license and vaccinate your dog.
- ◆ Invest in an alarm system from a reputable company.
- ◆ Keep all doors locked, even when you're at home. Keep garage doors down and locked, too.
- ◆ Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust. Avoid hiding spare keys outside the house. If you can "break in" to your own home, someone else can, too!
- ◆ When you travel, ask a friend to pick up your mail and newspapers or ask the post office to hold your mail.
- ◆ Use timers to turn lights on and off in different areas of your home while you're gone.
- ◆ Check that valuables such as expensive furniture, stereo equipment, paintings or coin collections aren't visible from outside windows.
- ◆ Take pictures of your valuables and write down their serial numbers and a description of them.
- ◆ Make sure your telephone and answering machine can't be heard outside. Record an answering machine message that says you're unavailable to take the call rather than not at home.
- ◆ Think like a burglar. "Case" your home the way a burglar would and look for easy ways to enter your home.



In all bad weather slow down, allow extra times, leave extra distance between you and the other car.

Carry your tire chains, tools for chains, flashlight, battery, flares, small shovel, ice scrapper, warm waterproof clothing, blankets, snacks and drinking water.

FOG

- ✓ Drive with lights on LOW beam. High beams will reflect off the fog, creating a "white wall" effect.
- ✓ Reduce your speed - and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- ✓ Avoid crossing traffic lanes.
- ✓ Travel with the driver's window partially open. Listen for traffic.
- ✓ Watch for CHP pace cars to guide you.
- ✓ If your car is disabled or you can't continue, pull well onto the shoulder and turn off lights. Move away from your vehicle.
- ✓ Consider postponing your trip until the fog lifts.

RAIN

- ✓ Drive with headlights on.
- ✓ Stay alert for vehicle hydroplaning.
- ✓ Leave extra distance between your car and the next motorist.
- ✓ Apply brakes more slowly to avoid pulling or skidding.

SNOW

- ✓ Carry chains in show conditions even if vehicle has 4whl drive.
- ✓ In the snow, the legal speed limit is 25mph on 2 lane roads and 30mph on multi lane roads.
- ✓ Check your owner's manual for operating tips on your vehicle's braking system.
- ✓ Watch for paddle-shaped markers that show the edge of the road.
- ✓ Studded snow tires may be used between November 1 and April 1 only.
- ✓ Stay with your vehicle if you break down.



IMPAIRED DRIVING claims thousands of lives every year, or approximately one death every 48 minutes.

Scheduled to coincide with the holiday season, December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. If your gatherings involve alcohol, make plans so that you don't have to drive after drinking. For example:

- Prior to any drinking, designate a non-drinking driver when with a group.
- Don't let your family or friends drive impaired. Take their keys away if necessary.
- If you have been drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi.
- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver; offer alcohol-free beverages; and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

Stay safe as you gather with family and friends this holiday season.

Sheriff's Community Meeting Series
CHECK FOR NEW TIME SCHEDULE



Meetings are scheduled for January, March, May, September and November. We had a good turn out for most communities for September. The POP Team facilitates the meetings in your neighborhoods. The purpose of these meetings is to open the channels of communications between The Sheriff's Department and the entire community and to hear the concerns you have in your neighborhood. We hope to see all of you at these meetings.

Arden, Arden-Arcade

**Normally held 1st Tuesday, but because of New Years Day it is set for the 2nd Tuesday, 6:00pm

North Service Center,
2500 Marconi Ave., Sacramento

January 8

Orangevale

2nd Tuesday, 6:00pm

Orangevale Recreation and Park District
6826 Hazel Ave., Orangevale (south of Oak)

January 8

Fair Oaks

4th Tuesday, 6:00pm

La Vista High School
4501 Bannister Rd, F.O.(North of Winding Wy)

January 22

Old Foothill Farms

2nd Wednesday, 6:00pm

Pioneer Elementary School
5816 Pioneer Wy., Sacramento

January 9

North Highlands/New Foothill Farms

1st Thursday, 5:30pm

North Highlands Community Center
6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands

January 3

Antelope

2nd Thursday, 6:00pm

Antelope Library
4235 Antelope Rd., Antelope (West/Walerga Rd)

January 10

Elverta, Rio Linda, Garden Hwy, McClellan

3rd Thursday, 5:30pm

Rio Linda Park and Recreation Center
810 Oak Lane, Rio Linda

January 17

Carmichael

3rd Tuesday, 6:00pm

Del Campo High School, Library
4925 Dewey Drive, Carmichael

January 15

Supervisor Susan Peters will be attending the North Highlands/New Foothill Farms meeting, January 3rd.

SQUATTERS IN VACANT HOMES OR BUSINESSES

If the property has been taken back by the bank or has been abandoned by the owner, and someone else moves in it may be time to call Sheriff's dispatch to have a deputy respond to get the squatter out.

Some residents are finding out that the new neighbor really is not renting that home and the 'renter', had no right to move in.

There is a new breed of burglars or trespassers or con artists who are moving into foreclosures across the country. Some appear legitimate, they unpack their belongings, start up their utilities, park their car in the garage, rake the leaves and put out their garbage just like you and I, but they are a squatter.

Some times neighbors won't know that the 'new renters' are actually squatters for several months. Sometimes even with law enforcement responding, squatters end up not moving and it can take months to get them out of the house.

Law enforcement needs to identify who is the actual owner of the house, and if there is a valid lease agreement. The squatter may confuse law enforcement by claiming that they have a right to be there.

Law enforcement is sometimes unable to verify that the renter/squatter is living there illegally or has committed a crime.

- The house may actually be in foreclosure
- Not on the county record as now being owned by a bank
- In escrow to a new owner
- Abandoned by the owner
- Absentee owner
- Owner is unable to meet onsite to verify ownership

Scams

Forcible entry is made; then repairs to the entry area are made or a lock smith is called out to change the locks.

Access to the key is made by breaking open the realtor lockbox and entering.

The con artist placed an advertisement on a website and rented it out. Then have the unsuspecting renter provided deposit and rent. Con artist wants cash only or leaves a key and asks for payment to be wired as 'he's out of town'.

Con artist may offer you a low, low price that is 'too good to be real deal' on the rental property or wants to sign papers in his car, not at a rental office and may use a set of generic rental agreements.

Prevention

If possible and before your existing neighbors are leaving, get their contact information or agent of contact.

Know where the vacant houses are on your street.

Ask that a lockbox or sign not be placed in the yard of the vacant house.

Consider taking care of the yard so the house appears occupied.

Write down information on the yard sign or 'google' the address for contact information, on who's listing the property as well as email address, phone number and anything else you know.

Regularly observe activity at that property.

Nonobtrusively capture information in writing or photograph that person, if those activities appear to be suspicious.

Contact the assessor's office for property information.

Communicate with and share information with other neighbors if you suspect fraud.

Verify information with the 'real' property owner and possibly other neighbors of suspected fraud.

Report immediately any suspicious behavior to law enforcement.

Crime

The vacant property may used as a flop house, a drug sales house or a house to store stolen property.

Properties that were in very good condition that are not being adequately monitored by owners can ultimately

be inhabited by squatters. This is obviously bad for the safety and value of the surrounding community and creates more calls for service and time for law enforcement, the owner and the agents of the property. Once squatters get all the utilities put into their names it's much harder for law enforcement to get them out. Securing these houses protects your community's real-estate values and safety. It's both a community and law enforcement responsibility to partner together and help one another.

Help your neighbor's home from becoming a squatters home through these crime prevention tips and remember that they key to solving this may be in the speed that it gets reported as well.