

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

West Valley Patrol Division
Saratoga 2022



Introductions



Agenda

- History of Neighborhood Watch
- Goals of the program
- Security and safety topics
- Neighborhood involvement
- Suspicious Activities
- Q & A's



History of Neighborhood Watch

- The current American system of neighborhood watches began developing in the late 1960s as a response to the rape and murder of a victim in New York. People became outraged after reports that a dozen witnesses did nothing to save the victim or to catch the killer. Some local residents formed groups to watch over their neighborhoods and to look out for any suspicious activity in their areas.
- Shortly thereafter, the National Sheriff's Association began a concerted effort in 1972 to revitalize the "watch group" effort nationwide.



What Is Neighborhood Watch?

- A community working together & looking out for each other
- A supplement to police presence
- **The program is created, run, and maintained by you and your neighbors**
- A community that is aware, observes and **reports** suspicious activity
 - Requires **No Physical Involvement** by you
 - Observe and report only



Neighborhood Watch Goals

- Reduce the likelihood of crimes
- Bring citizens & law enforcement into a cooperative partnership
- Receive information and be informed of crime trends
- Promote a spirit of community within a neighborhood



What should you look for?

- Suspicious vehicles or persons, not known to your immediate neighborhood
 - Don't Assume they belong, call us and call your neighbors. We will evaluate details.
- Undocumented door to door solicitors
 - Profit organizations require a city permit
 - Non-Profit organizations do not
- Unknown persons entering backyards or side gates



What should you look for?

- Front doors, side gates, garage doors , car doors or trunks standing open
- Anything else that makes you feel uneasy or unsure. Call us & call your neighbors



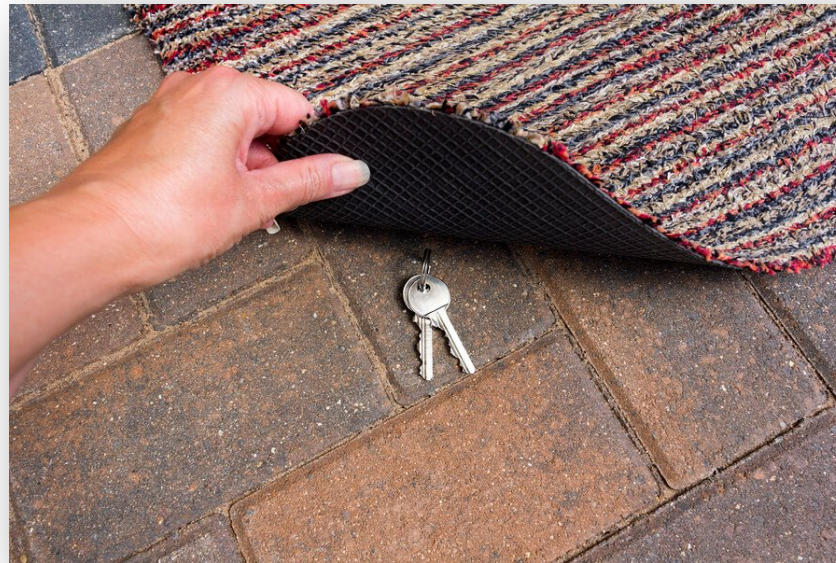
Who Should You Call?

- Call the Sheriff's Office and call your neighbors
- 9-1-1
 - If in doubt, always call 911. The dispatcher can identify location of call
- Cellular phones
 - 911 may go to a different agency; expect a transfer delay. Program [\(408\) 299-2311](tel:4082992311) into your cell phones for Santa Clara County Communications.



Residential Burglaries

- An estimated 3.7 million household burglaries occurred each year on average from 2003 to 2007. (*Bureau of Justice <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/ascii/vdhb.txt>*)
- Lock all doors and windows when going out, even if it's for “just a minute.”
- Never leave a door key under the mat, in flower pot, on a ledge, etc...



Saratoga Crime Index

2021 - 2022 VARIANCES

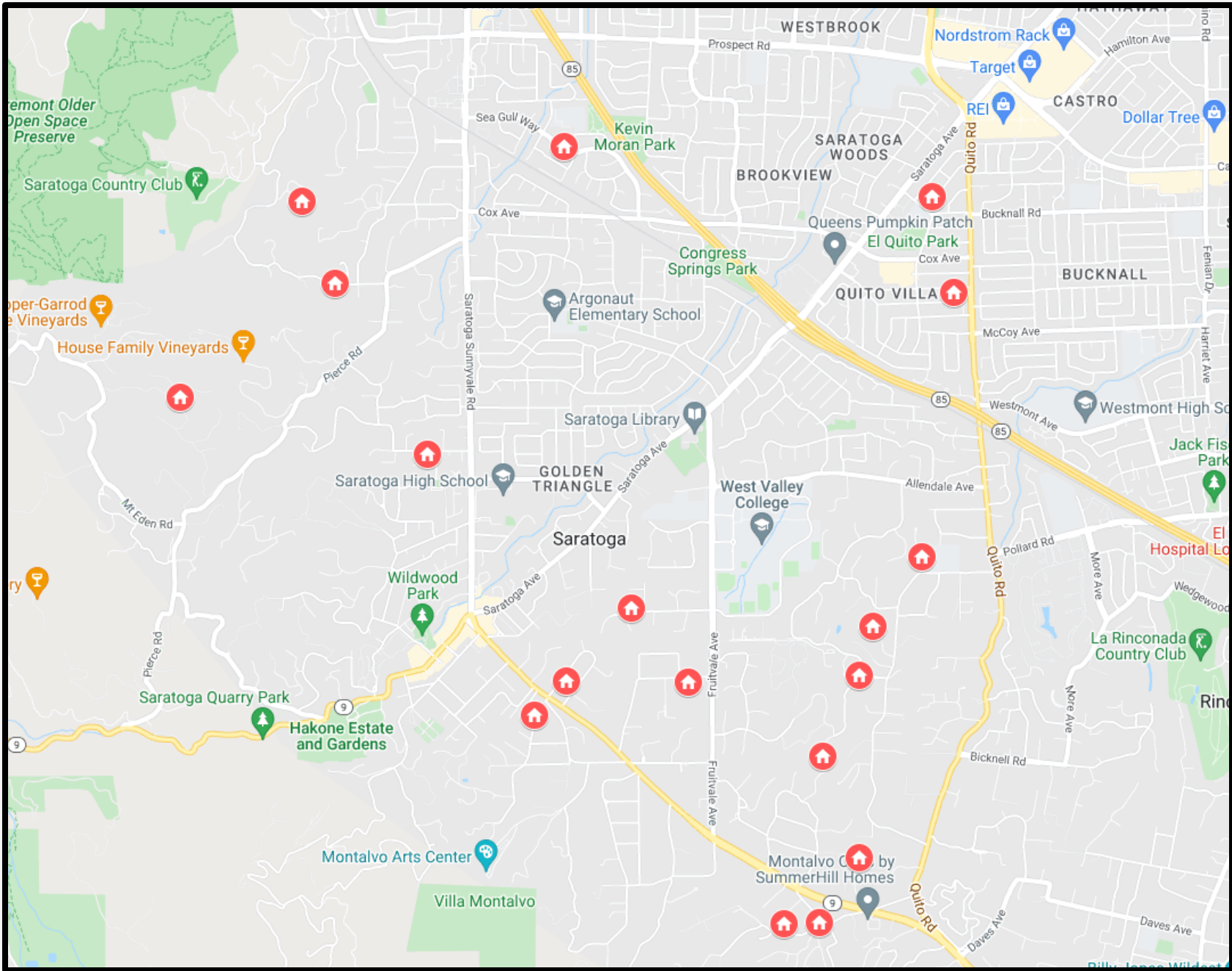
	2021 JAN-APR	2022 JAN-APR	% Difference	
Robbery	0	2	N/A	
Residential Burglary	14	18	29%	↑
Commercial Burglary	4	5	25%	↑
Vehicle Burglary	4	5	25%	↑
Grand Theft	17	22	29%	↑
Auto Theft	5	2	-60%	↓
Vandalism	17	7	-59%	↓
Identity Theft	22	25	14%	↑
Domestic Violence	4	4	N/A	
Assaults	4	3	-25%	↓
Sex Crimes	5	9	80%	↑



Home Security

- **Doors**
 - Keep doors closed and locked even when at home
 - Doors should have a solid core
- **Windows**
 - Windows should only be open while you are at home
 - DO NOT leave windows open during the day to vent the house
- **Gates and Fences**
 - Should be locked to prevent easy access to the backyard





Alarms

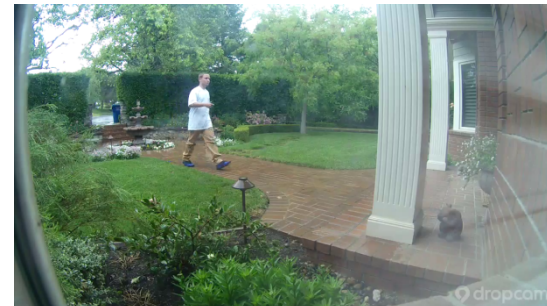
- Can be an effective deterrent
- Different types
 - Silent
 - Audible
 - Motion Detector
 - Entry
 - Turn them on!



Security Cameras



- Higher The Resolution, The Better
- 1080p will capture faces and license plates
- Digital or cloud storage is VERY useful
- Locations
 - At least one HD camera pointed towards the street
 - Front porch, Side gate, Rear door or back sliders



Home Security Check

- Home Security checks are conducted by Sheriff's Office deputies
- Deputies will conduct a “walk through” of your residence, answer questions, and provide you with guidance
- Call 408-868-6600 to schedule, or download Security Assessment Document at:
- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/Documents/Residential%20Security%20Survey%20SCCSO%20Final%20V%20Sept%202014.pdf>
(or Google it)



Home Security

- Going on Vacation?
 - Stop your mail and newspaper service, or have a neighbor or relative pick it up daily.
 - Contact Sheriff's Operations and ask for a vacation patrol check at (408) 868-6600 during normal business hours (M~F, Between 8am and 5pm.) or
 - Visit the Sheriff's Office website at <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/> to schedule



Vehicle Security

- ALWAYS Lock Your Car!
- Leave your windows rolled up
- Don't leave anything inside your car that is visible from the outside
- Take your cell phone, charging cord, removable stereo and lap top with you when leave the car or lock them in the trunk.



"I've got keyless entry."



Vehicle Security

- A thief will break your window on the chance that something of value is in that “unknown” bag, box, package or jacket pockets.
- Park in the well lighted areas of the parking lots
- Do not attach a tag with your address to your ring of keys. If you do, use a PO Box number only



Neighborhood Involvement

- Be an aware neighbor
 - An aware neighbor knows what goes on in the neighborhood
 - Communicate with your neighbors, if not in person, then by phone, email or fax
 - Get to know your child's friends. Know names addresses & phone numbers
- **Call 9-1-1 anytime you observe suspicious behavior**
 - Better to be safe than sorry



Suspicious Activities?

- Anything that may be connected to criminal activity
- Sounds:
 - ❑ Alarms activated
 - ❑ Glass breaking
 - ❑ Dogs barking
- Vehicles
 - ❑ Slow moving
 - ❑ Driving with lights off at night
 - ❑ Unattended with motor on
 - ❑ Unknown vehicle parked at a neighbor's house
- People
 - ❑ Behaving strangely
 - ❑ Going door to door and to side yards
 - ❑ Parked inside a vehicle for an extended amount of time
 - ❑ Wearing clothing inconsistent with the weather



Questions, Comments, Concerns?

*Contact the City of Saratoga to register your group and obtain signage: www.saratoga.ca.us/stayingsafe



Sheriff's Office West Valley Substation

408.299.2311
(non-emergency)

Text 9-1-1

408.868.6600
(Admin. Offices)

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