

## Seattle Police Email Community Newsletter

### June 7, 2016



Dear Community Friends,

### Summertime Safety

We're coming in to that time of year when we usually see an increase in residential burglaries usually through open and unlocked windows. Given that, we wanted to take a moment to send out security tips for the warm weather months. Please share these tips with your neighbors.

#### ***Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened***

- Always close and lock windows whenever away from the home. While we understand the desire to ventilate the home when you are not there because of the heat, be aware that you make your home vulnerable and you create an opportunity for the burglar.
- If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows that is cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which help prevent the window from being opened too far. However, some of these are not very sturdy and can be opened given the right amount of force. Please consider augmenting those stops with track locks or with a simple dowel. For double hung windows, consider sash pins to better secure the windows from being opened.

#### ***Lock Your Doors***

- Install good quality dead bolt locks with at least a 1" throw on all exterior doors.
- Replace the existing screws in the strike plates with screws that are 3"-4" long. When a door is forced open, it is the jamb that splinters and gives, not the door. By securing the strike plates with 3"-4" long screws, you secure the jamb to the wall stud. When the deadbolt lock is engaged, the bolt goes into the jamb and the jamb is now secured to the framing of the home. This makes it much more difficult for a person to force open a properly locked door.

#### ***Working In The Yard***

- If doing yard work in the back of the home, do not leave your front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight, be mindful of what is in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by. Close and lock those doors as well.

#### ***Secure Tools and Ladders***

- Secure all tools, including ladders, so they cannot be used to gain entry into your home or that of a neighbor.

#### ***If Away For An Extended Period Of Time***

- If you're going to be away for an extended time, ask a friend or trusted neighbor to watch your home. If they see suspicious activity while you are gone, they will know to call 911 for you.
- Have the Post Office hold your mail and hold your newspaper delivery.
- Make it appear that your home is occupied. You can do this by having timers set within the home that will turn lights on and off. You may want to consider timers for your exterior lights or photocell attachments (which activate when it gets dark and go off when it becomes light).

#### ***Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended***

- Never leave personal items out of your immediate control, such as a purse in a shopping cart or a cell phone on a picnic blanket. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle, even if hidden out of sight. Seattle has a high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.

## Night Out Against Crime 2016, Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the City of Seattle will be celebrating the **32<sup>st</sup> Annual Night Out Against Crime**. Our registration link for Night Out 2016 is now active. Please go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/default.htm>

Night Out is a national crime prevention event designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and unite our communities. Neighbor participation in Night Out continues to grow every year. In 2015, nearly 1,400 Night Out events were registered city-wide. It's fun, it's free and it's a great chance to reconnect with neighbors and share information with each other while learning more about crime prevention. Getting together with your neighbors, recommitting to watch out for each other, and reaffirming you will report suspicious activity to police are ways to show you care about your community. You do not need to be in an active Block Watch to hold a Night Out event.

### Department of Neighborhoods Funding Available To Support Your Night Out Event

If your neighborhood wants or plans to participate in this year's **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night Out** on August 2, **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods** has a fund to support your event.

The **Small Sparks Fund** provides funding for neighborhood-initiated projects that promote community engagement and relationship building. Community groups can request up to \$1000 to help fund Night Out activities such as outreach materials, cultural entertainment, music, food, and kids' activities, to name a few. The deadline for applications is **Friday, July 1 at 5:00 p.m.**, but you must register first in the **web-based application system** (<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund/how-to-apply>) to apply.

For information on the application process, visit [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm) or call 206-733-9916. The Small Sparks Fund is open to applications year-round for such activities as block parties, neighborhood sports tournaments, community picnics, and emergency preparation training, just to name a few.

### Question of the Month

*We have an alley behind our house that runs the length of the block. It's very dark at night. What can we do to get lights back there?*

If there are existing utility poles in the alley, Seattle City Light can install lights on them. However, there are some things to consider.

1. City Light would have to determine who actually "owns" the pole. Each utility pole has a number on it that is unique to that pole. When you do contact City Light about having lights installed, give them the pole number.
2. Alley lights are not covered by the general fund; they're paid for by customers. The costs are about \$9 per month for each 52 watt light with a basic installation charge of about \$280 per light.
3. Before the lights can be installed, it would need to be determined which customer address would be billed for which light.
4. One final consideration is the most important one: your neighbors. If you light up the alley, will that impinge on your neighbor's ability to sleep without having light shining through their windows all night?

Work with your neighbors to decide if you want to pursue installing and activating alley lights, how many and on which pole, and which household(s) would absorb the costs to install and maintain the light(s).

For more information, e-mail [street.light@seattle.gov](mailto:street.light@seattle.gov) or phone (206) 684-7056.

Thank you for all you do for your community. Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, Crime Prevention Coordinator  
South & Southwest Precincts, Seattle Police Department  
206.386.9766, [Mark.solomon@seattle.gov](mailto:Mark.solomon@seattle.gov)

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

<http://www.SPDBlotter.Seattle.gov>

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/tweets/>

