

Celebrating a Safer Vincent

This is the first of a series of regular Safer Vincent columns designed to give residents, businesses and visitors to the Town helpful information and practical advice on safety and crime information. These articles aim to provide an accurate picture of and information on current issues in Vincent. It is important that safety issues are kept in perspective and that we do not become paranoid over safety and crime (remembering that issues are often sensationalised in the media). It is encouraging to know that Vincent is indeed a safer place to live with the Town recording decreases in most crime offences since 2003 (Office of Crime Prevention Crime Prevention). To assist you in getting an accurate picture of issues in your suburb you can access current on-line Police statistics from www.police.wa.gov.au and follow links to 'About us/facts and figures'.

Safer Vincent Partnership

We are fortunate to have many agencies and people working within Vincent to make it a safer place. The Town has adopted a proactive partnership approach to safety and recently developed the Town of Vincent Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2007-2010 which will guide the Town's actions in safety for the next 3 years. Copies of this plan are available from the 'Public Documents' page at www.vincent.wa.gov.au.

The Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership is designed to progress issues of community safety together with the State Government, Office of Crime Prevention and community partners.



Members of the Safer Vincent Partnership met recently at the launch of the Safety Plan.

Current Safety and Crime Issues

Wembley Police Station Officer-in-Charge, Senior Sergeant Alan Cox has reported the occurrence of a number of break-ins, particularly in the North Perth and Mt Hawthorn areas and has advised that householders can take a number of measures to reduce the risk of theft by reducing opportunities for burglars by:

- Not flaunting assets and property by making them easily visible and accessible (e.g. laptops visible through the window, car keys or handbags/wallets on the kitchen or hall table).
- Installing home security (whether it is as simple as doweling placed in the channel of your windows or a sophisticated alarm system).
- Installing adequate external night lighting using automatic motion sensors.
- Having a family dog at home.
- Communicating with your neighbours and watching out for each other.
- Locking front and rear doors and windows when not at home – special care should be taken to secure access points to the side and rear of your home.

- Keeping the front door and rear door locked when at home, especially when attending to other business (i.e. when in your backyard or on the phone).
- Giving unoccupied homes the appearance of being occupied using timing devices to activate internal lighting and radios etc.
- Identifying weaknesses around the perimeter of your house and strengthening (e.g. remove or cut back foliage that can obscure access to windows; where there is a small pane window next to an external door place security mesh/grill over window or dead bolt the door; cover large toilet windows with security mesh/grill etc).
- Securing tools and garden equipment to prevent their use by potential burglars.
- Making your bedroom a secure environment (lock on the bedroom door and windows; have a phone near the bed – keep emergency numbers next to it along with a torch).
- Ensuring your valuables are identifiable by photographing, recording serial numbers and marking the property to render its resale less anonymous and therefore more difficult to dispose of.
- Noting and reporting any suspicious behaviour, along with descriptions of person, registration numbers etc to Police on 131 444 (000 if emergency).

Complacency in relation to home security is the burglar's best ally. The majority of burglaries are opportunistic – taking advantage of errant householders. Help reduce your chances of becoming a victim by being proactive in your home and personal security.

HELPFUL SAFER VINCENT CONTACT NUMBERS

- For your Local Police station (i.e. Wembley or Perth Police Stations) contact 131 444
- Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
- Life Threatening Emergencies 000
- Safer Vincent Co-ordinator 9273 6032



In line with the Town's overall commitment to community safety we employ a full-time Safer Vincent Co-ordinator. Should you have any queries about this article or for advice on:

- the use of an engraver to mark valuables
- any general community safety and crime prevention advice
- if you are an individual or agency wanting to join the Safer Vincent Partnership/Network
- if you have any suggestions for topics for future Safer Vincent articles

please contact the Safer Vincent Co-ordinator on 9273 6032 (TTY 9273 6078).

