

Celebrating a Safer Vincent

The 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' column is designed to give you, as a resident, business proprietor or visitor to the Town, helpful information and practical advice on safety and crime prevention. These articles aim to provide an accurate picture of, and current information on, issues and safety activities within Vincent. 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). To assist in getting an accurate picture of issues in your suburb you can access current Police statistics from www.police.wa.gov.au and follow links to 'About us/facts and figures'.

Latest 'Streetwise Steps' encouraged by the Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership

Central Metropolitan Police District, as active partners in the Safer Vincent Crime Prevention overall Partnership, have provided some streetwise steps in time for the Christmas holiday period.

Christmas is a busy time of the year for everyone in the Central Metropolitan Police District, including criminals. A large proportion of crime is opportunist, so this Christmas we are seeking your help to stop thieves in their tracks. By introducing some practical security precautions into everyday life you can take an active role in reducing crime. Get to know your neighbors. Keep an eye on each other's home.

Are you at risk of a break-in? Is your home safe from intruders? Have you done all you can to ensure your own safety and the protection of your property? Are your valuables protected? Or...is it easy for a burglar to get in? Is it easy for a burglar to sell your things without suspicion?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may need to introduce some changes around your home – to make it harder for the burglar to break in and easier for you and your neighbours to sleep at night.

Cycling on Footpaths

Occasionally the Town receives complaints about problems with cycling on footpaths. This edition focuses on the responsibility of the cyclist, future columns will look at the responsibility of other shared path users.

A cyclist riding on a path owes a duty of care to any pedestrians they encounter, because the rider should reasonably foresee that collisions may occur on a shared facility. In other words, as a cyclist, you really need to treat pedestrians with extreme care at all times.

There are some special rules for the use of shared paths (formerly called dual-use paths) and footpaths in Western Australia:

- Children under 12 years of age may ride on any footpath unless a no bicycles sign has been erected.
 - Riders 12 years of age and over are not permitted to ride on a footpath.
 - Riders must keep left on shared paths and footpaths unless overtaking.
 - Riders must give way to pedestrians at all times.
- Note: pedestrians include people walking, using motorised and non-motorised wheelchairs, and people on rollerblades and skates.
- At path intersections you must signal your intention to turn and give way to motor vehicles entering or exiting an intersecting road.
 - Riders must only travel in single file on all paths, though they can travel two abreast on a road.
 - A power-assisted bicycle must not use a path when the power assistance is engaged.
 - Under the Road Traffic Code, it is an offence to speed. The Code also requires that you do not ride carelessly or recklessly.
 - Animals must not be tied to a moving bike.

Our thanks to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for allowing the reproduction of this information and photo. For more information please see www.dpi.wa.gov.au.



Delicious tips on how to stop criminals leaving a bitter aftertaste this Christmas

Entrée

YOUR CAR – and all its trimmings

Car Thief's Classic – car left unlocked, with windows open
(Always lock doors and windows)

Starters Orders – keys left in the ignition
(Hide keys and never leave them in the ignition)

Santa's Surprise – presents left on seats
(Keep presents out of sight. If they can be seen, they can be stolen)

Chef's Treasure Chest – served with valuables
(Never leave valuables in your car. Take them with you)

Store your keys in a safe location
60% of stolen vehicles come from home burglaries

Mains

YOUR HOUSE – on a plate

House Hotpot – doors and windows not secure
(Secure all windows and doors)

Santa's Parcels – presents displayed under the Christmas tree
(Keep presents out of sight)

Desserts

YOUR PROPERTY

Pedal Power – bicycles not secured or marked
(Lock bikes and engrave them with your driver's licence number)

Shed Surprise – valuable tools for the discerning thief
(Lock your shed. Don't leave tools in your yard)

Devil's Cocktail – don't leave your drink unattended
(Don't be a victim of drink spiking)

Coffee & Mints

Surprisingly Sour – cheap goods passed on could be stolen
(Don't buy crime, a bargain could be someone's stolen property)

Do you have any further 'Streetwise Steps' suggestions? For a free safety and crime prevention pack including handy fridge magnet, key light torch, hat and 'Eyes on the Street' pen, send your suggestion to safer.vincent@vincent.wa.gov.au. If your suggestion is one of the first five received, you will get one of the packs. Suggestions sent in will be featured in future 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' columns.

Raising the Town's Preparedness to Respond to Emergencies

The Town of Vincent, in conjunction with Red Cross Emergency Services Australia, recently utilised the North Perth Town Hall and Mount Hawthorn Lesser Hall to photograph an evacuation exercise. The photographs will be used by the Red Cross in their community publications across Australia.



The North Perth Town Hall and Mount Hawthorn Halls are amongst Town venues identified as evacuation centres in local emergency management arrangements. In the event of an emergency, the opening of evacuation centres is determined by the Hazard Management Agency, WA Police and the Department of Child Protection.

The Town is an active participant in the Western Central Local Emergency Management Committee, which is charged with developing local plans and emergency arrangements that can be put into practice in the event of an emergency.

As demonstrated through the evacuation exercise, the beautifully restored North Perth Town Hall, built in 1902, is still providing valuable service to the community. ☀



Vincent Light and Safe *Putting Safety in the Spotlight*

As part of our on-going commitment to the safety and well-being of residents, and following on from last year's successful implementation of Vincent Light and Safe, the Town is again supplying and installing FREE motion sensor lights to victims of crime and those susceptible to crime. 'Vincent Light and Safe' is an initiative of the Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership, in conjunction with the WA Police Service, to assist residents of the Town in improving lighting outside homes and increasing levels of security and safety. The Town has secured funds to implement the 'Vincent Light and Safe Project' – with installation of motion sensitive lights available to residents who have been victims of anti-social/criminal behaviour in or near their homes within the Town. The lights and installation are provided free of charge to eligible applicants – holders of current pensioner or healthcare cards. The lights can be installed on owner-occupied properties or rental properties, providing that the property owner's permission is obtained. The lights are suitable for installing at front doors, rights of way or driveways.

There are only small number of lights left, so get in quick – it's first come, first served!

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Co-ordinator Safer Vincent on 9273 6032 and at www.vincent.wa.gov.au.

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
- Town of Vincent Co-ordinator Safer Vincent 9273 6032
- Report Graffiti 1800 44 22 55
- Street Light Faults 1800 622 008

Should you have any enquiries about the above articles or need advice:

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

please contact the Co-ordinator Safer Vincent on 9273 6032, TTY 9273 6078 or email safer.vincent@vincent.wa.gov.au.