

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'.

Dog Owners Taking the Lead

Many Vincent residents enjoy owning a dog for a variety of reasons including companionship, security, exercise and fun. Owning a dog can be a rewarding experience, but being a responsible dog owner is about understanding your responsibilities to the community. This includes:

- Animal welfare
- Public safety
- Dog handling and training
- Ensuring your dog is not a nuisance
- Adequate housing and fencing for your pet.

A dog may only be exercised in a public place if it is on a leash (2 metres maximum length) and held or led by a person capable of controlling that dog. The requirement does not apply to 'prescribed exercise areas', however in these areas the dog still must be in the owner's control and the owner must have a leash in their possession. The incidence of dog attacks would be reduced if dogs were being effectively controlled and held by a leash. You should be aware that an attack need not involve the dog actually biting or inflicting a wound. Allowing a dog to attack or chase a person, animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person whether or not injury occurs may incur a maximum penalty in a court of law of \$10,000. The penalty is doubled for urging or setting a dog to attack a person, animal or bird and also carries a 12-month jail sentence.

In addition to walking your dog on a leash whilst in a public place, cleaning up after and registering your dog are all positive steps towards being a responsible dog owner.

To support responsible dog ownership, the Town has 20 'pooch purses' to give away. These can be attached to your dog's lead and used to store 'Poo-ch Bags' ready to pick up after your dog. The first 20 emails received with 'Responsible Dog Owner' in the subject line, and name and address in the body of the email, will receive a free 'pooch purse'. Send your email to safervincent@vincent.wa.gov.au.



Ranger David Boardman with Town of Vincent responsible dog owners.

Is Your Dog Registered?

Ranger & Community Safety Services are in the process of following up unregistered dogs within the Town. Dog Registration Officers will be door knocking in your area during June 2009.

The Dog Act 1976 requires all dogs over the age of three months to be registered within the State. It also requires that dogs wear a collar displaying a current registration tag and a tag showing the owner's name and address.

If you are the owner of a dog which is not currently registered within the State, you may be liable for a penalty of up to \$1,000. Dog Registration Application Forms are available from our website.

For further information on responsible dog ownership, visit www.vincent.wa.gov.au or contact Ranger & Community Safety Services on 9273 6023.

A Message to All Residents from WA Police Central Metropolitan Crime Prevention Unit

Local Police are seeking assistance from Town residents to ensure apartment, town-house and unit security is maintained in inner city and suburban areas. "The Town of Vincent is a great place, however most recently there has been a noticeable level of break-ins to apartments, town-houses and units in the locality. Many of these crimes are opportunistic, could be avoided if residents took the precautions below and were proactive in protecting their home and property," said Snr Constable Frank Bell.

The WA Police Crime Prevention Unit has provided the following suggestions to assist you avoid becoming a victim of crime:

1. Ensure all your doors and windows are locked, including balconies, windows and sliding doors to town-houses, units and apartments. Don't live under the false notion that burglars don't climb to second or third floors!
2. Remove all natural ladders (i.e. bins, building refuse) to balconies, second floors etc.
3. Ensure all your property of value is marked.
4. Report all crime or suspicious behaviour you observe to Police on 131 444 (000 if an emergency). Even if Police attendance is not required, reporting allows WA Police to assign resources accordingly and notifies them of any on-going issues in the area.

Remember: "Preventing Crime Is Everyone's Business". Snr Constable Frank Bell and Sgt Merv Lockhart are offering Town residents FREE home/business security appraisals. Appointments can be made by contacting 9284 3999.



Snr Constable Frank Bell and Sgt Merv Lockhart.

Local Emergency Arrangements Developed for Vincent and Western Central Area

The Town is an active participant in the Western Central Local Emergency Management Committee (WC LEMC), which assists in the development of appropriate Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery plans to deal with emergency situations (both natural and man-made) and has recently included strategies for terrorist actions, critical infrastructure protection and recovery.

Clause 36 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* states that it is a function of local governments to ensure that effective emergency management arrangements are prepared.

The Emergency Management Arrangements provide a framework for Hazard Management Agencies (HMAs) and local governments to manage an emergency event should it occur in the WC LEMC area. The WC LEMC area comprises the Towns of Vincent, Cambridge, Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Claremont, the Cities of Subiaco and Nedlands and the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

“The threat of a major disaster affecting the Western Central District is ever present. Experiences at national and international level have demonstrated the awesome power of nature and the effects of man-made/caused emergencies (accidental or deliberate). The H1 N1 (swine flu) health emergency, emanating from Mexico, is a notable recent example which is taxing the resources of most countries worldwide.

“Federal and State Governments require all communities to be prepared for events such as these and, in accordance with this requirement, Emergency Management Arrangements have been compiled for the WC LEMC area, including the Town of Vincent. These arrangements are available for public inspection through the Town of Vincent website www.vincent.wa.gov.au or in hard copy at the Town of Vincent Library & Local History Centre. I urge all residents and stakeholders to take the time to read this important document,” said Jim MacLean, Chairman of WC LEMC. ☀

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 issues
- 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 safer.vincent@vincent.wa.gov.au.