



Discovery Bay Station Crime Watch

Volume 2 Issue 9

October 2010



Halloween Safety Tips



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

SHERIFF WARREN E. RUPF

UNDERSHERIFF

Scott. Daly

Field Operations

Commander Dave Pascoe

Patrol Division

Captain Ron Bradley

Delta Station Commander

Lt. Mike Burton

Discovery Bay Resident

Deputies

Mark Spaulding

Chris Hamblin

I would like to remind you and your family to be safe this Halloween. You may want to check the Megan's Law website or the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Offender Watch website to see where sex offenders live in the area your children will be trick-or-treating. Stay informed and stay safe!



To access the Megan's Law website, go to www.meganslaw.ca.gov and click the Continue button on the bottom of the page. Read the disclaimer page, and if you accept the terms regarding how the Megan's Law website is to be used, click the accept box and the Continue button. You can search for offenders by Name, Address, City, Zip Code and County.

To access the Sheriff's Office Offender Watch website, go to www.cocosheriff.org and click on community information tab on the left side of the page then registered sex offenders on the sub-menu. Look In the box "Is your family at risk?" click [Here](#) to view our online registry. Then click on the "Search for offenders in your area" button on the tope left corner of the page. You can search for offenders by Name, City or within a one-mile radius of a given address.

In addition to searching for sex offenders in your area, we recommend that you follow these safety tips while trick-or-treating:

- Always trick-or-treat with an adult.
- Plan a route and stick with it.
- Accept treats in the doorway. You should never go inside a house to accept the treats or see decorations.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only houses that are lit.
- Don't pet or go near animals you don't know.
- Do not eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them.
- Accept only wrapped candy.

Important Numbers

Emergency

911

Non-Emergency

(925) 646-2441

Delta Station

(925) 625-2341

Marine Patrol

(925) 427-8507

CHP

(707) 551-4100

Animal Control

(925) 335-8300

Discovery Bay Annex
1555 Suite #J
River Lake Rd.
Discovery Bay, CA 94505

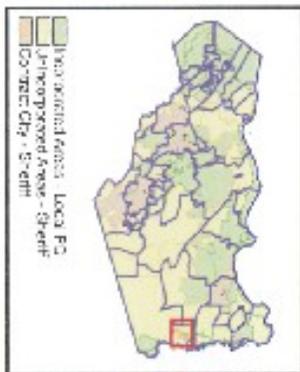
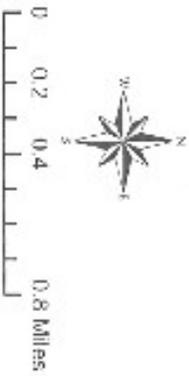
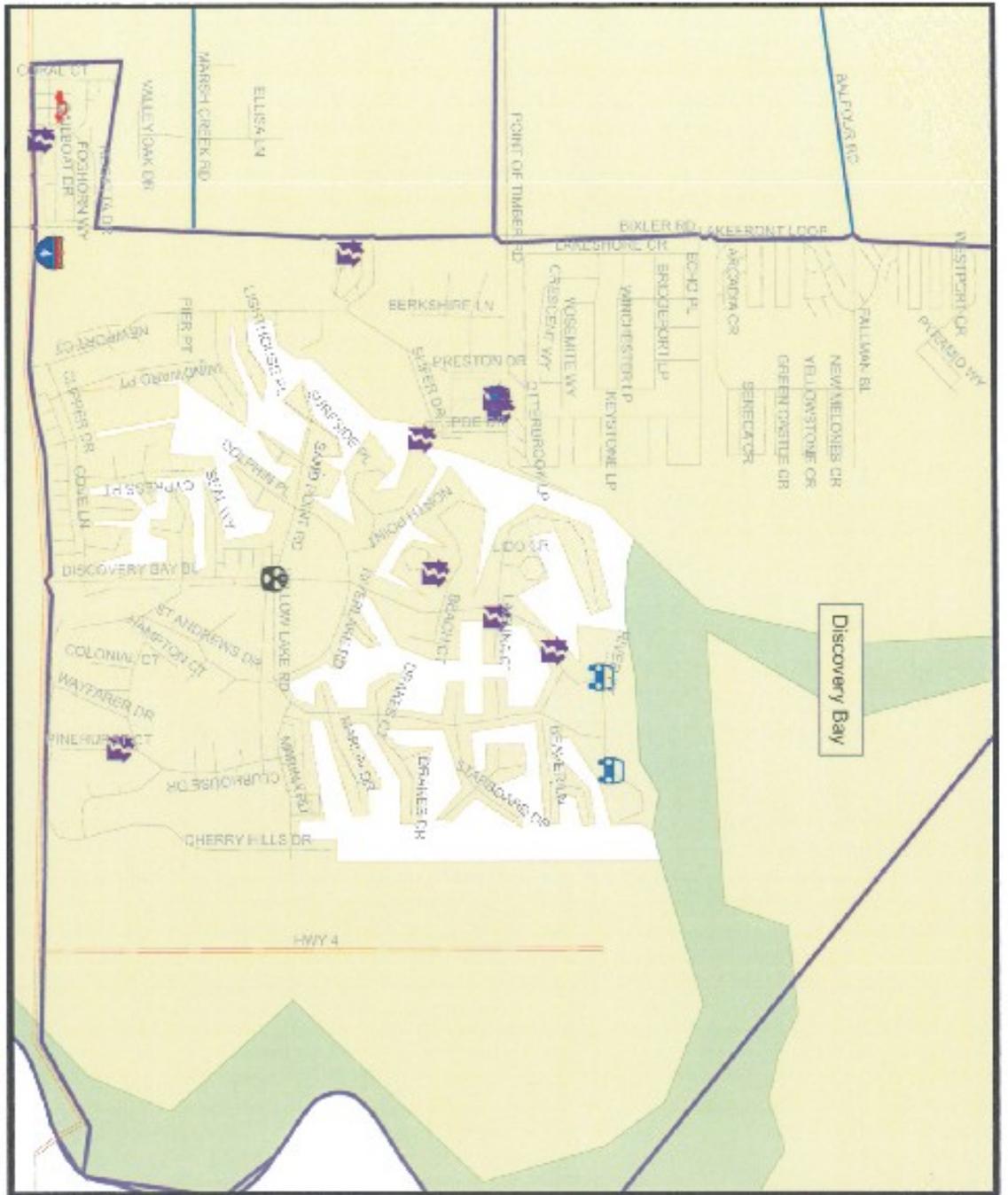
Tony Fontenot
Crime Prevention Specialist
Phone: 925-634-0585
E-mail: Afont@so.cccounty.us



VISIT THE SHERIFF'S WEBSITE AT: WWW.COCOSHERIFF.ORG



Select Crimes
Discovery Bay
September 2010



Select Crimes

- Stolen Vehicle
- Recovered Vehicle
- Person 346
- Stolen Hobbie
- Drug Activity
- Search Warrant - Warrant
- Search Warrant - Warrant - Other
- Rape
- Auto Stolen
- Stolen Bicycle
- Stolen Boat
- Stolen Fire Vehicle
- Stolen Airplane
- Stolen Truck
- Stolen Trailer

Created By:
Crime Analysis
Central Costa County
Office of the Sheriff

Property Crimes for September 2010

Residential Related Crimes

In the month of September, a total of 9 residential burglaries were reported to the sheriff's department for the Discovery Bay area. 6 out of the 9 residential burglaries, the homes were unsecured. In the remaining three reported to us, forced entry was made to gain access to the home either by a window or by the side garage door. None of the homes were equipped with alarm system.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department recommends that all exterior doors to your home should be either solid core wood or metal doors. To add to the security, use strong door hinges on the inside of the door, with non-removable hidden pins. Additionally, all doors should be well lit and have a wide angle door viewer to verify who is on the other side of the door prior to opening it.

Your lock is only as good as your door is strong, so after ensuring that you have secured your home with good doors, make sure you can lock them with strong, reliable high security locks. Remember to always keep your doors and windows locked, whether you are at home or away, even for a short period of time. Use quality keyed knobs as well as deadbolts. Deadbolts can withstand twisting, tuning, prying, and pounding that regular knobs cannot. When choosing a deadbolt, the Sheriff's Department recommends a lock that has a least a one inch throw, that part that extends into the door jam when locked. Additionally, hardened steel inserts to prevent the lock from being sawed off, and a reinforced strike plate with extra long mounting screws to anchor the lock effectively. (Jambrace.com)

Sliding glass doors can offer easy access into your home, especially to a potential burglar. To improve security on existing sliding glass doors, you can install keyed locking devices that secure the door to the frame: adjust the track clearances on the doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks. A wood dowel or metal rod cut to the length of the door track will prevent the door from being opened when the rod is in place.

Alarms may be a good investment for your home. If you do decide to get an alarm please make sure you check with several companies before you buy so you can decide what level of security you need. Do business with a reputable company, and check references before signing any contract. Ensure that the alarm company will teach you how to use your system properly! Another option is a sound detecting socket that a light fixture plugs into and makes the light flash when it detects certain noises. Also motion sensing outdoor lights that turn on when someone approaches, or lights with photo cells that turn on when it's dark and turn off in the morning.

Burglars can commit crimes other than theft. Take heed if something looks questionable. If you come home to an open door or broken window, do not enter. Call (925) 646-2441 from your cell phone or 911 from your neighbors home phone and wait for the Sheriff's Department to arrive. At night if you hear someone breaking in, leave safely and call the Sheriff's Department if you can. If you cannot leave, lock yourself in your room and call the Sheriff's Department. Remember that guns are responsible for many accidental deaths each year. If you own a gun for home protection, consider taking gun safety classes to learn about firearms, safe storage, the law, and ethical issues.

Auto Related Crimes

A total of 3 auto related crimes were reported to us in the month of September. **In one of the reported incidents the vehicle had no signs of forced entry but the windows of the vehicle were slightly left open.** The other two reported vehicle crimes windows were smashed and property that was in plain sight was taken from the vehicle. Total value of missing items and damage of the reported incidences comes to approximately \$5,400.00.

To reduce your chance of being a victim of auto burglary and theft from a vehicle please follow these simple examples:

1. Ensure vehicle is locked at all times.
2. Ensure windows are completely rolled up.
3. Ensure sunroof is completely closed.
4. Remove all valuables from the vehicle when you leave.
5. Park in well-lit areas.
6. Install an alarm system and use it.
7. Report all suspicious activity immediately.

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity and criminals are always looking for the easiest target, so please take the necessary steps to prevent yourself from becoming that easy target. Contact your Resident Crime Prevention Specialist at (925) 634-0585 for Safety training, more safety information, or to learn how to establish a Neighborhood Watch group on your street. You can also contact me via e-mail me at Afont@so.cccounty.us.

Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Protection

An identity thief takes your personal information and uses it without your knowledge. The thief may run up debts or even commit crimes in your name. The following tips can help you lower your risk of becoming a victim.

Protect your Social Security number.

Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. If your health plan (other than Medicare) or another card uses your Social Security number, ask the company for a different number. For more information, see "Your Social Security Number: Controlling the Key to Identity Theft" (Consumer Information Sheet 4) on our Social Security Numbers Web page.

Fight "phishing" – don't take the bait.

Scam artists "phish" for victims by pretending to be banks, stores or government agencies. They do this over the phone, in e-mails and in the regular mail. Don't give out your personal information – unless you made the contact. Don't respond to a request to verify your account number or password. Legitimate companies do not request this kind of information in this way.

Keep your identity from getting trashed.

Shred or tear up papers with personal information before you throw them away. Shred credit card offers and "convenience checks" that you don't use.

Control your personal financial information.

California law requires your bank and other financial services companies to get your permission before sharing your personal financial information with outside companies. You also have the right to limit some sharing of your personal information with your companies' affiliates. For more information, see "Your Financial Privacy" (Consumer Information Sheet 2) on our Financial Privacy Web page.

Shield your computer from viruses and spies.

Protect your personal information on your home computer. Use strong passwords: with at least eight characters, including a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols, easy for you to remember, but difficult for others to guess. Use firewall, virus and spyware protection software that you update regularly. Steer clear of spyware. Download free software only from sites you know and trust. Don't install software without knowing what it is. Set Internet Explorer browser security to at least "medium." Don't click on links in pop-up windows or in spam e-mail.

Click with caution

When shopping online, check out a Web site before entering your credit card number or other personal information. Read the privacy policy and look for opportunities to opt out of information sharing. (If there is no privacy policy posted, beware! Shop elsewhere.) Only enter personal information on secure Web pages with "https" in the address bar and a padlock symbol at the bottom of the browser window. These are signs that your information will be encrypted or scrambled, protecting it from hackers.

Check your bills and bank statements.

Open your credit card bills and bank statements right away. Check carefully for any unauthorized charges or withdrawals and report them immediately. Call if bills don't arrive on time. It may mean that someone has changed contact information to hide fraudulent charges.

Stop pre-approved credit offers.

Stop most pre-approved credit card offers. They make a tempting target for identity thieves who steal your mail. Have your name removed from credit bureau marketing lists. Call toll-free 888-5OPTOUT (888-567-8688).

Ask questions.

Ask questions whenever you are asked for personal information that seems inappropriate for the transaction. Ask how the information will be used and if it will be shared. Ask how it will be protected. Explain that you're concerned about identity theft. If you're not satisfied with the answers, consider going somewhere else.

Check your credit reports – for free.

One of the best ways to protect yourself from identity theft is to monitor your credit history. You can get one free credit report every year from each of the three national credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Request all three reports at once, or be your own no-cost credit-monitoring service. Just spread out your requests, ordering from a different bureau every four months. (More comprehensive monitoring services from the credit bureaus cost from \$44 to over \$100 per year.) Order your free annual credit reports by phone, toll-free, at 1-877-322-8228, or online at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp>.

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
Contra Costa County**

Discovery Bay Annex
1555 Riverlake Rd. #J
Discovery Bay, CA 94505
(925) 634-0585



**Warren E. Rupf
Sheriff**

**Scott P. Daly
Undersheriff**

East Contra Costa County Cops for Kids Holiday Program

The Cops for Kids Program was developed 4 years ago as an ongoing project to acquaint the children of our community with police officers as a positive influence in their lives. We are made up of Deputy Sheriffs and Police Officers in Contra Costa County. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the children of our community, through recreational activities and education. This program reaches out to children who are most in need and most at risk. We believe that the spirit of giving is not only during the holidays, but throughout the year.

During our holiday celebration, we provide a warm meal to 150 participating families. We provided coats, toys, books, bicycles, and educational material to children from birth to 13-years. The children are selected through the administration of our local schools and our School Resource Officers and Resident Officers. During dinner the children share in craft projects and learning activities. After dinner each has the opportunity to have a special conversation and photo with Santa Claus; they each select a toy or bicycle as their gift. Our gifts and celebration are part of sincere and humble charity. Our event and families are not sensationalized through the media.

Many of our children do not get enough to eat on a daily basis. We have noticed that many ask for an additional meal to take home; ensuring they have something for the next mealtime. We would like to expand our program to providing a bag of groceries to each family who participates.

Our program depends upon the donations of funds, new unwrapped toys, laptop computers, and other educational materials. We will accept any type of donations at the Sheriff's Discovery Bay Annex during the week or you can flag down one of the officers on patrol in Discovery Bay.

Sincerely,

**Tony Fontenot
Discovery Bay Crime Prevention Specialist
1555 Riverlake Road #J
(925) 584-9878
Tax ID #94-6000509**

Do you hide your valuables in one of these popular hiding places?

Dresser drawer  Bedroom Closet  Freezer 

Guess what: Those are some of the first places a crook will look.

TIMING

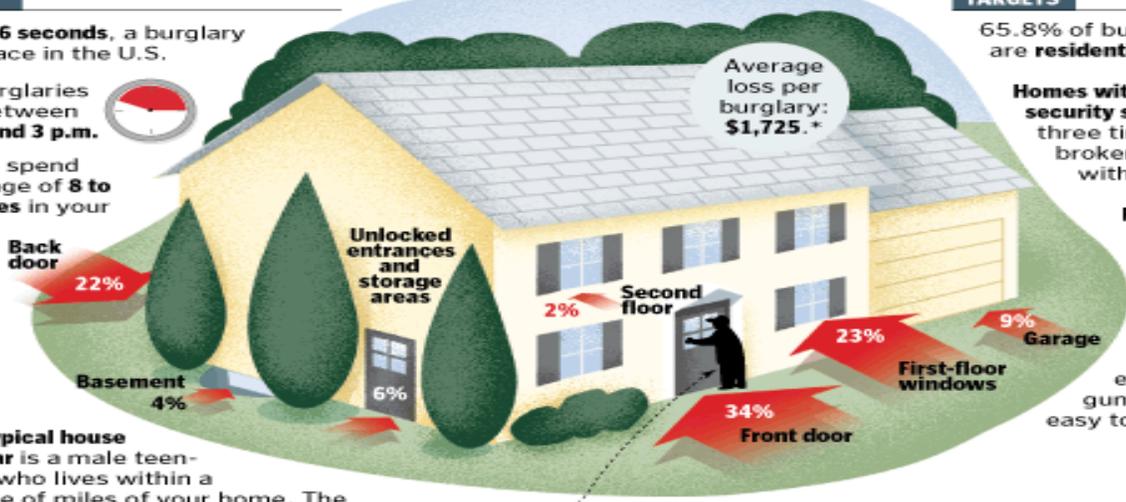
Every 14.6 seconds, a burglary takes place in the U.S.

Most burglaries occur between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. 

Burglars spend an average of 8 to 12 minutes in your home.

 **The typical house burglar** is a male teenager who lives within a couple of miles of your home. The chance of being victimized by a professional thief is low.

WHERE THIEVES GAIN ENTRY



TARGETS

65.8% of burglaries are residential. 

Homes without security systems are about three times as likely to be broken into than homes with security systems.

First stop: Usually the master bedroom because most people keep their valuables there.

Favorite items: Cash, jewelry, electronic equipment, silver, guns and other items easy to sell.

Burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied. A car in the driveway, motion-sensitive exterior lights, interior lights, and radios and TVs on timers all give the impression that someone is in the home. Stop newspaper and mail delivery, and have neighbors watch your home.

PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Burglars want to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into a home. Measures that raise this time — deadbolt locks, bars on windows, and pins in sash windows — might change a burglar's mind.

Don't give burglars any help. Clear shrubs and trees around your home. Don't give burglars a place to hide. Secure tool sheds and ladders. Some thieves will steal tools from around your property and use them to break windows and doors.



DELTA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

**BYRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
14671 BYRON HIGHWAY BYRON, CA.**

FREE BAGS OF FOOD—BREAD—HELP AVAILABLE

**FOOD PANTRY WILL BE OPEN EVERY TUESDAY
10AM TO 11:30 AM
AT THE**

**BYRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
14671 BYRON HIGHWAY BYRON, CA.**