

## Helping Our Police To Help You

by Arlette C. Ballew

Here is some information that can help you and help our police department to protect you and your neighborhood.

### Community Relations Office

The Police Community Relations Office is at 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Suite A, in the same building as the Teen Center. The number is 858-538-8120. The city's budget cuts have affected staffing, so if no one is there when you call, please try again. It provides the following services:

- Signing off on "fix-it" tickets
- Explaining police department policies
- Providing city employment information
- Assisting families with juvenile problems
- Explaining traffic, civil, and criminal laws
- Offering city and community agency referrals
- Conducting home and business security inspections
- Making presentations on personal and child safety and on home security
- Serving as liaison for crime victims and other police units
- Lending engraving tools for the Operation Identification Program
- Attending community and Neighborhood Watch meetings
- Taking citizen-request forms for community problems and issues
- Offering vacation house checks and "You Are Not Alone" programs (RSVP volunteers)
- Offering an Alzheimer's Registry program

### Crime

The Community Relations Office is **not** the place to call to report a crime, as it does not dispatch officers. In an emergency, call 911. To report a non-emergency crime or suspicious activity, call 858-484-3154.

There have been several automobile break-ins and thefts in Mira Mesa. To reduce the chance of your vehicle being broken into or stolen:

1. Park your car in your garage with the garage door shut and locked
2. If you park in your driveway or on the street:
  - lock your car
  - have an active car alarm
  - use a "Club" anti-theft device
  - use a car cover, preferably with a locked cable so that it is difficult to remove
  - do not leave valuables or items that look attractive to thieves in the car

To protect your home, lock your doors and windows. Check that your landscaping does not hide would-be intruders. Check that outdoor lights are operational. Keep an up-to-date record of valuables, including type, model, serial number, and value. Etch "CA" and your drivers' license number on any valuables that are likely to be stolen, and keep photographs of valuables that

cannot be etched. Notify the RSVP if you are going to be absent from your home for a significant period of time.

## **RSVP**

The Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) provides a great service to the community. Trained by the police department, these volunteers help to protect your neighborhoods. Currently, there are 42 active volunteers in Mira Mesa, and the police would like to have 60. If you are 50 or older, have a valid drivers' license, and can volunteer three days per month, please contact Dale Iwig at the Police Community Relations Office or call the RSVP at 858-538-8156.

## **Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch is a crime-prevention program that creates a partnership between residents of an area and the police. Phet Guiney, Community Service Officer, is the Mira Mesa neighborhood-watch organizer. You can reach her at 858-538-8135 or at [pguiney@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:pguiney@pd.sandiego.gov).

## **Whom To Call**

The police may not be the best choice to call in some cases. Following are telephone numbers for City of San Diego agencies (including police) for particular situations:

Suspected arson:	1-800-472-7766 (47ARSON)
Dangerous animal:	619-236-2341
Belligerent person:	858-484-3154
Car/building alarm:	858-484-3154
Nuisance bar/underage drinking:	858-484-3154
Gangs:	619-531-2847
Abandoned/inoperative cars	858-495-7856
Loud noise:	619-236-5564 or 619-236-5500
Graffiti:	619-525-8522
Non-functioning traffic light:	619-525-8650
Downed power/phone line:	619-811-8081
Tree limbs in electrical wires:	1-800-411-7343
Gas leak:	1-800-411-7343
Flooded street/clogged storm drain:	619-527-7500
Pothole:	619-527-7500
Burned-out street light:	619-527-7500
Overgrown weeds:	619-527-7500
Fallen trees:	619-527-7500
Abandoned/dangerous building:	619-236-5500
Sink hole/collapsed street:	619-515-3525
Missing/damaged manhole cover:	619-515-3525
Open fire hydrant:	619-515-3525
Uncollected trash or recyclables:	858-492-5055

Trash-strewn lot:	858-492-5055
Overflowing dumpster:	858-492-5055
Rodents/rats:	858-694-2888
Damaged bus shelter:	619-231-1466
Animal manure (dog):	619-338-2283
Dead animal:	858-492-5060 (5 pm-7 am, weekends, holidays: 619-573-1276)