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# MOUNT HERMON COMMUNITY

(The home owners and residents of Mount Hermon)

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## SECURITY UPDATE

June 23, 2010

As we have been reporting over the recent weeks, a number of thefts, burglaries, vandalism and loitering incidents have touched our residents, staff and Mount Hermon, itself. We want to inform and educate as part of the increased activity and effort planned from this day forward. A discussion meeting was held Wednesday morning among Community leadership, Mount Hermon staff and Sergeant Ross of the Sheriff Department. Much was learned and some decisions were made.

One of the keys to better enforcement is for the Sheriff to know that we have a problem. Report all crimes, no matter how seemingly small or that there seems to be nothing to be done. Patterns develop, suspects known to Deputies are interviewed and small things can yield big results. To report a crime, online, copy and paste the following link.

<http://reports.citizenserviceportal.com/Report.aspx?agency=sccc>

Telephone the Department at (831)471-1121 to report, ask questions or get help.

The Sheriff's Department offers free Vacation Watch services whereby a trained volunteer in a Citizen Patrol car will look for suspicious activity, and give extra effort to protect your home while you are away. Telephone the Department and give them the relevant information.

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department is always looking for more help. If you can volunteer your time to be trained and serve on the Citizen Patrol, apply by copying and pasting the following link.

<http://www.scsheriff.com/pdfs/Volunteer%20Program%20App.pdf>

In our discussion, we talked about details of the incidents known to us. It became evident that there are basic things we should be doing that, frankly, are we are not doing.

- Lock your doors and windows
- Review your security for vulnerable areas.
- Upgrade your locks and outdoor lighting
- Consider installing an alarm system
- Lock your vehicles

*Mount Hermon  
Community  
Executive  
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Co-President*

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Secretary*

*Barbara Grensted  
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*PO Box 413  
Mount Hermon,  
CA 95041  
(831)-335-5120*



- Don't leave valuables in plain sight, in your vehicle or visible through your windows
- Don't leave items unlocked or unattended (bikes, sports equipment)
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other
- Make contact with unfamiliar persons. The spoken greeting is "hello". The unspoken message is "I see you and I will remember you". It will add mutual protection and make ours a friendlier community.
- Most cell phones have cameras. Snap a photo of unfamiliar vehicle license plates.
- Report suspicious activity or patterns to the Sheriff. Anonymous reporting is available or let your Community leadership know your concern. We have a good relationship with Sgt. Ross.
- Talk to your kids. A couple incidents may have been local juveniles (residents or visitors)

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As an additional level of effort, Mount Hermon Association has a professional security patrol for the Conference grounds. Security is to be further tightened and unauthorized activity abated. This includes:

- Uniformed patrol personnel
- Active door by door verification of Conference facilities
- Reporting of suspicious persons, vehicles and activities
- Increased awareness of neighborhood security

While no single effort will, by itself, result in a noticeable change in the situation, in combination there is a cumulative effect. Community action, awareness and education will make a difference. Above all, let your Community leadership know of your needs. We are here for one another.

Paul Izor