

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



PINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 2010

MEET OFFICER ANGELA LIKOS AND HER CANINE PARTNER SPIKE

Hello! I am Officer Likos and this is my partner Canine Spike. I have been with the Pinole Police Department for five years. Spike, a four year old Belgian Malinois, joined Pinole Police Department and became my partner in February 2009.

Spike is a trained Patrol Canine and a Narcotic Detection Canine. As a Patrol Canine, Spike is trained in suspect apprehension, article searches, building searches, ve-

hicle clearance and trailing. As a Narcotic Detection Canine, Spike is trained in detecting the odors of Methamphetamines, Cocaine, Heroin, and Ecstasy in vehicles and buildings.

Spike is trained to follow my verbal and non-verbal (hand) commands. Spike responds to commands in several different languages.

After riding around together for a twelve hour shift, Spike comes home with me.

Spike lives with me and goes just about everywhere I go.

Spike and I are available to do demonstrations for your organizations. If you would like to set up a demonstration, please contact me at:

(510)869-5865 or alikos@ci.pinole.ca.us.



IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is when someone else uses your good name for financial gain to change their identity, to hide from creditors, to hide from the police, to avoid taxes, and for many other reasons. Identity theft is attempted most often to obtain cash, goods, or services using your good credit rating.

Your credit rating literally can be destroyed by a thief who obtains credit in your name and doesn't pay the bills. It can take months to come to your attention especially if the bills and collection notices are no longer coming to your address.

Your social security num-

ber is the most critical personal identifier because it is the key to your credit profile. Next in line of importance is your signature, your full name, current address, date of birth, county of birth, mother's maiden name, bank account numbers, prior addresses, employment history.

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Car Show—June 27th
- National Night Out—August 3rd

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4 WAYS TO HELP PREVENT CRIME

Reducing and preventing crime isn't always in the minds of most people on a daily basis, but there are a few simple improvements you can make to help prevent loss. The concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) has been adapted by many neighborhoods, businesses, law enforcement and private industries to reduce the amount of opportunities for criminal activity. The premise of CPTED is that *"The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear of crime and incidence of crime, and to an improvement in quality of life."* - National Crime Prevention Institute.



NATURAL SURVEILLANCE:

- Trim bushes and trees so that you maximize your visibility.

- Clear your windows and view from clutter. It allows you to see your surroundings, in turn, discouraging would-be thieves.

TERRITORIAL ENFORCEMENT

- Create eye-pleasing boundaries by using planters and fencing.
- Motion sensor lighting will alert entrants that you are aware of access to your property.

NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL:

- Structure elements around your home or business to deny access to private areas.
- Clearly marked signs will help direct people and traffic flow.

TARGET HARDENING:

- Secure your doors, windows, and fencing with locks.

- Exterior door hinges allow easy removal –it is recommended to have them replaced with interior door hinges.

By following these simple guidelines, you will help reduce the amount of criminal activities within your neighborhood and business complex.

The Pinole Police Department offers free home security inspections. Contact Community Safety Specialist Tom Madigan at (510) 724-9838 or tmadigan@ci.pinole.ca.us.



Pinole Police Department Explorer Program



The Pinole Police Department's Explorer Program is for youth 14-20 years of age who are U.S. citizens; they must maintain a C average in school, be in good physical condition, be of good moral character, and be willing to work 10-hours a month.

Explorers are taught the basic functions of the Pinole Police Department. They will also learn teamwork and leadership skills and receive training in crowd control, first aid, crime prevention, and search and rescue. Applications can be obtained at

City Hall, the Pinole Police Department and Pinole Valley High School.

Contact Officer Andrew Decker, (510) 741-3894 or adecker@ci.pinole.ca.us for further information.

Emergency Preparedness

(From the US Dept of Homeland Security)

Everyone should have a plan. The likelihood of you and your family surviving a house fire depends as much as on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack or other emergency. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer. Here are some recommended supplies to include in a basic emergency supply kit:

- Water—one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle—to signal for help

- Dust mask—to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes—for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers—to turn off utilities
- Can opener—for food
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Infant formula/diapers—if you have an infant
- Unique family needs



**PREPARING
MAKES
SENSE - GET
READY NOW**



From Our Friends at the Fire Department

It's weed abatement season!! Dry weeds, dead trees and yard clippings can have a significant effect on the speed and intensity of a fire. By eliminating the bulk of such available "fuel" we can reduce both the size and number of fires

that may occur. The Pinole Fire Department requires dry grass and brush be removed to provide a safety buffer of at least **thirty (30) feet** around any structure. Tree limbs lower than **6'** from the ground must be trimmed.

The grasses may dry out later this year but when they do, it will be a heavier than normal season.

Let's help keep our neighborhoods safe from fire.



880 Tennent Avenue
Pinole, CA 94564

Phone: 510-724-8950
Fax: 510-724-9061
E-mail: police@ci.pinole.ca.us

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is a publication of the Community Preservation & Safety Unit, Pinole Police Department, 880 Tennent Avenue, Pinole 94564.

Chief Paul M. Clancy, Sergeant Will Palmi, Officer Andrew Decker (510) 741-3894; Community Safety Specialists: Tom Madigan (510) 724-8938; Pat Pava (510) 741-3892; Al Chavarria (510) 724-8961; Code Enforcement Officers: Doug Hearn (510) 724-8966; Tyra Harrington (510) 724-9843; Admin. Secretary Linda Radcliffe (510) 724-8960.



Springtime Crime Tips



Spring is a glorious time of year when the winter rain and sun are a harbinger for our lush green hills and gardens. We open our doors and windows to enjoy the warmth of the fresh air and sunshine after the cold wet months of winter.

What we may not realize is that by leaving open our doors and windows we are allowing opportunities for people to make our stuff their stuff.

Every spring, people make mistakes that leave them vulnerable to crime. While a mother sits in her back-

yard watching her children play, anyone could be rifling through her unlocked vehicles with the windows rolled down in her driveway. Her garage door is open. There is plenty to choose from for someone looking for a quick 'take'.

Tip #1: Never leave your vehicle unlocked or windows down. When the weather turns warm, the vehicle can be stolen or the items that are sitting in plain view can be taken.

Tip #2: Never leave your garage door open unless you are working inside it. It

Would take little time for someone to get inside and grab whatever they can and walk right out.

Tip #3: Always remove valuables from your vehicles, even when inside your garage.

Tip #4: Side garage doors are another easy access for thieves. Keep that door locked when you are not in your garage.

This spring let's use common sense to help ensure that you, your friends and neighbors enjoy a crime free spring season.

