



City of Baytown Newsletter

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Crime Prevention Tips



By Officer Maggie Hinojosa #39



Fun Time Fridayz

August 25, 2006
Dance for Jr. High Students
7-10 p.m. at the Civic Center

Swimming Pools Close August 13th



TAFF Women's C & D State Tournament

Aug. 21, 26 & 27TH
Wayne Gray Sports Complex

The City is building a new 4.0 million gallon per day (MGD) sewer treatment plant in the northeast part of the community. Estimated cost of the plant is \$17,500,000. Construction is to begin in 2006, with completion expected in 2008. The plant's design will allow it to be expanded up to 16 MGD to accommodate future growth of Baytown. The plant is being built through a contract between the City and CSA Construction, Inc. Money to build the plant is through a contribution from the Baytown Municipal Development District, a loan from the Texas Water Development Board and from the sale of certificates of obligation.

You are the first line of defense for your personal safety. Prepare to protect yourself, your family and your property. Preparation involves preparing yourself mentally and physically as well as assessing your home to develop a personal plan for your current situation. Age, gender, and your physical well-being are something you should consider. Consider that ...

- Crimes against persons occur within minutes, and the criminal looks for a prompt route of escape.
- You should think ahead and prepare yourself mentally for a potential problem you may encounter.
- Opportunity is what a criminal is looking for such as poor lighting; someone who is alone, distracted, and vulnerable; open car windows; and open home windows. Unlocked doors on vehicles and residences can easily be interpreted as opportunity to a criminal.
- Visible valuables such as purses, CD's, and laptops should be secured in your vehicle's trunk while shopping or taking care of business.
- At home, close garage doors and secure bicycles and lawn equipment.
- The Police will respond to suspicious persons calls. If you are uncomfortable with someone loitering around your work place, home, or school, call it in.
- You may request assistance from in-house security where security is present; such as in malls, apartment complexes, schools and places of employment.
- Alarms for your home, vehicle, and personal protection may be purchased and used as a deterrent. Personal safety alarms that emit over a 100 decibel blast act as an attention getter and deterrent when you are uncomfortable about a person or situation.

Be vigilant. Survey your personal habits.

- Do you lock your car doors after you enter your car or before you fully exit your vehicle?
- Are you easily distracted or are you aware of your surroundings and your whereabouts?
- Do you preoccupy yourself by talking on the phone, reading over a list or have your hands so full of groceries and packages that you are vulnerable?
- Do you observe people or do you see silhouettes? Could you describe someone in detail if you had to?

Survey your residence, including:

- Landscape, shrubs, and bushes should be trimmed so no one can hide behind them.
- Provide outside lighting for your front porch, backyard, driveway, garage.
- Check for damages or wear to doors accessible from the exterior of your residence, molding, frame, hinges, striker plates, peep holes and locks.
- Have timers on lights and radios when you are away from your home.

No crime prevention method is fool proof, but doing something is always better than doing nothing. Decide what is personally best for you and make a plan of action that fits you. Keep a record of your valuables. Photograph or video record your valuables. Keep receipts and write down serial numbers. Store the records in a separate and secure location such as a safe deposit box.

The Baytown Police Crime Prevention Unit has engravers for your use that may be checked out at the Baytown Police Crime Prevention Unit. This Unit can also assist with programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Crime Stoppers and D.A.R.E. The officers from this unit will put on Crime Prevention presentations for groups and civic organizations. Safety and Security Pamphlets that provide helpful tips and suggestions for all ages can be picked up free of charge at the Crime Prevention office. For more information call or contact us at 220 W. Defee, (281) 422-5152.